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News Release

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January 6, 1998

No. 1

AXWORTHY SENDS SPECIAL ENVOY TO ALGERIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Mr. Claude Laverdure, Assistant Deputy Minister (Europe, Middle East and North Africa), will travel to Algeria as a special envoy to assess the situation there.

"I hope that during the mission, expected to take place shortly, my special envoy will have the opportunity to meet with the most senior Algerian authorities," said the Minister. "I wish to convey to the Algerian authorities my deep concern and that of Canada with respect to the renewal of attacks against hundreds of innocent civilians, and to reiterate to the responsible authorities the need for greater transparency."

In a recent letter to his Algerian counterpart, Minister Axworthy suggested that the former take appropriate measures to improve the international community's understanding of the situation in Algeria, in particular through greater transparency, especially with the media, to throw light on these appalling events.

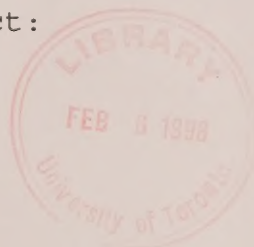
In addition, Mr. Axworthy announced that he is also studying the possibility of increasing humanitarian assistance to survivors and other victims such as displaced populations.

The Minister recently met with a group of non-governmental organizations to discuss Canada's concerns regarding the gravity of the situation in Algeria.

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News Release

January 9, 1998

No. 2

MARCHI ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF TEAM CANADA INC ADVISORY BOARD

Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi today announced the names of members of the Team Canada Inc Advisory Board. The 20-member group will be chaired by Lynton (Red) Wilson, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of BCE Inc. The Chair and members of the Board will be appointed for a two-year term.

The new Board will provide counsel on trade policy and market access questions as well as issues related to trade and investment promotion. Members will review and offer advice on the government's International Business Development Plan. They will also monitor results of the plan and provide guidance on the most effective allocation of resources.

"Members were carefully selected for the diversity of their background," said Mr. Marchi. "They bring to the Board a breadth of knowledge and expertise that will be instrumental in guiding the direction of our trade and investment agenda. This initiative demonstrates the close partnership between government and the private sector to help Canadian companies succeed in the international marketplace."

The Board was announced as part of Team Canada Inc in October to enhance existing services in Canada's trade promotion network.

The Board will meet at least twice annually; the first meeting is expected to be held early in 1998.

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A list of Team Canada Inc Board members is attached.



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TEAM CANADA INC ADVISORY BOARD

Lynton (Red) Wilson

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
BCE Inc.
Montréal, Quebec

Jacques Bougie

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
Alcan Aluminum Ltd.
Montréal, Quebec

Mario Dumais

General Secretary
Coopérative fédérée du Québec
Montréal, Quebec

Robert Fung

Vice-Chairman
Gordon Capital
Toronto, Ontario

Robert Gillespie

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
General Electric Canada Inc.
Mississauga, Ontario

Kazuko Komatsu

President and Chief Executive
Officer
Pacific Western Brewing
Company
Burnaby, British Columbia

Jacques Lamarre

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Montréal, Quebec

Ken Matchett

Chief Executive Officer
XCAN Grain
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Terry Matthews

Chief Executive Officer
Newbridge Networks Corporation
Kanata, Ontario

Anthony Merchant

Merchant Law Group
Regina, Saskatchewan

The Hon. Frank McKenna

Fredericton, New Brunswick

J. E. (Ted) Newall

Vice-Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
NOVA Corporation
Calgary, Alberta

Kenneth R. Nichols

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
Ventra Group Inc.
Cambridge, Ontario

Dr. Sylvia Ostry

Distinguished Research Fellow
Centre for International
Studies
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario

Michael Phelps

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
Westcoast Energy Inc.
Vancouver, British Columbia

Shirley Thomson

Chair
The Canada Council for the
Arts
Ottawa, Ontario

Robert White

President
Canadian Labour Congress
Ottawa, Ontario

Francine Whiteduck

President and Chief Executive
Officer
Whiteduck Resources Inc.
Maniwaki, Quebec

Victor Young

Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
Fishery Products International
St. John's, Newfoundland

Donald Ziraldo

Inniskillin Winery
Niagara Falls, Ontario

January 9, 1998

News Release

January 9, 1998

No. 3

AXWORTHY APPOINTS INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS COUNSELLOR AND LAUNCHES NEW STRATEGY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Mr. Blaine Favel as Counsellor on International Indigenous Issues. This appointment will be effected through an Executive Interchange Canada agreement with the Assembly of First Nations. Mr. Phil Fontaine, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and Mr. Favel were present during the announcement.

"In his role, Mr. Favel will provide myself and the Minister for International Trade, Sergio Marchi, with an important viewpoint on a broad range of international issues affecting indigenous peoples worldwide," said Mr. Axworthy. "He will provide, in particular, input and policy advice on Canadian positions concerning indigenous issues at the United Nations, the Organization of American States and other international fora."

"This reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to develop a new partnership with First Nations in Canada as stated in the announcement by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Jane Stewart. This appointment will support the strengthening of First Nations' initiatives in the fields of economic and business development, not only in Canada but also around the world," stated Chief Phil Fontaine.

"This appointment is an example of the commitment to new partnerships that the government outlined in *Gathering Strength: Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*," said Jane Stewart. "Two major elements of the Plan are renewal of partnerships with Aboriginal people and support for strong communities, people and economies. The Plan makes specific references to international partnerships and increased access to overseas markets."

"I'm pleased that the Government is serious in its efforts to improve the relationship with First Nations," said Mr. Favel. "My appointment is in the new spirit of partnership that can work to promote Aboriginal rights."



Mr. Favel's diplomatic appointment is also part of a strategy on indigenous economic and cultural development that will be undertaken by the Government of Canada in co-operation with the Canadian Aboriginal community. The strategy will bring together Canadian federal departments and Canadian Aboriginal organizations in new international activities. It is designed to promote awareness among Canada's Aboriginal Peoples of the programs and funds available to them, both inside and outside Canada.

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1998

[News]

Release

January 12, 1998

No. 4

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND MEXICO

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today signed six bilateral agreements on behalf of the Government of Canada. The signing ceremony took place following a meeting in Mexico City with Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and Canada's First Ministers. Mexico is the first stop in the five-city Team Canada trade mission.

"These agreements highlight the expanding and mature relationship that Canada and Mexico have developed since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] in 1994," said Minister Marchi. "Today's announcements clearly show that our two countries are strongly committed to expanding the bilateral relationship in an increasing number of important areas."

In the *Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in Combatting Narcotics Trafficking and Preventing Drug Abuse*, the governments of Canada and Mexico will exchange information in a variety of areas, including the suspected illegal traffic of narcotics, legislative experiences and practices, and will address the issue of drug dependency. This MOU follows a similar undertaking that was in place from 1990 to 1995, and demonstrates the continued commitment of both governments to work together in this area.

A *Memorandum of Understanding on Development Co-operation between the Canadian International Development Agency and Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México* will support and facilitate mutual development co-operation. This may include institutional co-operation in areas that foster long-term linkages and relationships between Canada and Mexico and the development of joint co-operative activities in other countries.



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Canada and Mexico have benefited from a unique relationship of co-operation in the field of telecommunications since the original signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Telecommunications* between Industry Canada and Mexico's Secretariat of Telecommunications and Transportation in 1992. In the intervening years, the two countries have experienced rapid growth in their industries by sharing innovative technologies and by collaborating in the development of telecommunications policy and regulations. The MOU reiterates a commitment to continue co-operation in this dynamic and increasingly important area.

The *Memorandum of Understanding on Health* is the first formal agreement between Health Canada and Mexico's Ministry of Health. This MOU formalizes the increasing and excellent co-operation between the two ministries over the past five years. It covers a wide range of areas, including health technology, public health and health promotion. It is meant to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise between the two ministries and other health organizations in Canada and Mexico.

The *Memorandum of Understanding on Education Co-operation* aims to expand bilateral co-operation in education, encourage the needed skills for the new knowledge-based society of the 21st century, and foster greater learning and understanding between Canada and Mexico. It encourages increased linkages between academic institutions in both countries, and the identification of opportunities and the exchange of information in the areas of faculty and student exchanges, specialized training programs, and research and development.

The *Model Forest Co-operation Program*, between Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Mexico's Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries, will support and strengthen the Model Forest Program in Mexico, including the addition of the Monarch forest, which is integral to the survival of the Monarch butterfly. This will advance the sustainable development of Mexican forests, including better forest management practices, increase and diversify the economic benefits derived from forests, encourage strong social participation in forest management, and promote greater environmental awareness among the local population.

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[News]

Release

January 12, 1998

No. 5

INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER OFFICIALLY OPENS CANADIAN EDUCATION CENTRE IN MEXICO CITY

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today officially opened the Canadian Education Centre (CEC) in Mexico City during his first stop on a five-city Team Canada trade mission to Latin America.

The CEC in Mexico City is the first to be established in Latin America and the 11th Centre that Canada has opened worldwide. In addition, Canada has opened three additional Canadian resource and marketing centres outside the CEC Network in Athens, Abu Dhabi and Caracas.

"Canadians know that a highly educated and trained work force is one of the most important resources in making a country competitive," said Minister Marchi. "Canadian schools have much to offer international students – high educational standards, relatively low tuition fees and an attractive environment in which to study and live."

The CEC Network was established to help public and private education providers market their products and services abroad. As subscribers to the Network, Canadian schools and education companies are promoted at the Centre and at education fairs held throughout the host country. In Mexico, this includes education fairs such as EDUCANADA '98, organized by the CEC Network, which is being held in Monterrey, Mexico City and Guadalajara later this month.

The CEC Network began operating in Mexico City in April 1997. Since then, it has attracted 141 Canadian education institutions as subscribers – the third-largest in the Network, including 11 Francophone educational institutions.



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The CEC Network is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, with Centres in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kuala Lumpur, Thailand, India, Singapore, Australia and China. The Network generates revenue through subscription sales to Canadian education institutions. Building on the success of the network of CECs in Asia Pacific and Mexico, Canada plans to open up to 15 new education marketing centres by the year 2000.

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News Release

January 13, 1998

No. 6

CHAN TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO VIETNAM FOLLOWING VISIT TO LAOS

The Honourable Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), will lead a trade mission to Vietnam from January 15 to 21, following a visit to Laos on January 14 and 15. Mr. Chan will be accompanied by a business delegation representing nine Canadian companies during his visit to Vietnam.

"Vietnam's recent accession to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and its commitment to economic reforms have generated a window of opportunity to broaden our bilateral commercial ties," said Mr. Chan. "This trade mission is designed to promote Canadian expertise and technology and to find ways of adapting them to the needs of emerging markets such as Vietnam."

While in Vietnam, Mr. Chan will visit Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. In Hanoi, he will make courtesy calls on the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Planning and Investment, and the Minister of Transportation. In Ho Chi Minh City, he will meet with the Chairman of the People's Committee and visit Canadian and Vietnamese business ventures. In addition to promoting Canadian business, Mr. Chan will discuss political, trade and economic matters, as well as regional issues and human rights.

In Laos, Mr. Chan is scheduled to meet with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Chairman of the State Planning Committee to discuss regional issues and topics such as landmines, Canada's bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council and human rights. Mr. Chan's visit to Laos will mark the first official visit by a Canadian minister since 1973.

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**Visit to Vietnam of the Honourable Raymond Chan,
Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific),
January 15 to 21, 1998**

BUSINESS DELEGATION

Aerospace Training Canada International, Ottawa, Ontario

B A Banknote Co., Ottawa, Ontario

Burns Solicitors, Toronto, Ontario

City Video & Viet Travel, Edmonton, Alberta

Macdonald Dettwiler & Assoc. Ltd., Richmond, British Columbia

Manulife Financial Ltd., Toronto, Ontario

Newbridge Networks Corp., Kanata, Ontario

SNC-Lavalin International, Ottawa, Ontario

Vietnam Exportation & Development Corporation, Port Credit, Ontario

Backgrounder

CANADA-VIETNAM RELATIONS

In 1973, Canada established diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), which was renamed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1976 following official unification with the South. Vietnam reopened its Embassy in Ottawa in 1990; Canada opened an office in Hanoi in 1991, which was upgraded to an Embassy in 1993.

Several high-level visits over the last few years have enhanced Canada-Vietnam relations, particularly the November 1994 visit of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. At that time, Canada opened a trade office in Ho Chi Minh City, which was later upgraded to a Consulate General. The Prime Minister also visited Vietnam in 1997 to attend the Francophonie Summit in Hanoi.

Although Canada-Vietnam trade is modest, it has risen considerably and there is growing interest among Canadian businesses. The value of Canada-Vietnam trade reached \$147.6 million in 1996, up from \$111 million in 1995 and from \$61.1 million in 1994. The value of Canadian exports to Vietnam in 1996 was \$49.8 million, up from \$34.8 million in 1995. Imports rose to \$97.8 million in 1996, up from \$76.1 million in 1995. Major Canadian exports to Vietnam include fertilizers, textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, pulp and plastics. Principal imports from Vietnam include shoes, coffee, tea, spices, apparel and apparel accessories, leather goods and seafood products.

Hundreds of Canadian business people and delegations have visited Vietnam in the last two years. Canadian companies have invested \$25 million in Vietnam since 1988, placing Canada 15th among foreign investors. The Canada-Vietnam Chamber of Commerce is based in Montréal.

Canada is well placed to contribute to, and benefit from, the significant economic reforms under way in Vietnam. Canadian expertise and capabilities match Vietnamese requirements in sectors designated for priority development, such as transportation, telecommunications and energy.

Vietnam's eligibility for official development assistance was restored in March 1990, following Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia and the start of its extensive program of economic renewal. Since 1990, Canada has contributed some \$119.4 million to Vietnam in official development assistance. Of this total, \$18.9 million was disbursed in food aid and humanitarian assistance, and \$17.1 million was given to Canadian institutions and private firms to support their development activities in Vietnam.

The strategy for Canadian assistance to Vietnam, developed by the Canadian International Development Agency, focusses on long-term programs that will increase Vietnam's capacity to plan and manage its ambitious reforms; support human-resource development and technology transfer; support the development of a legal and institutional base that will enhance private-sector development; and encourage social equity, poverty reduction, environmental protection, human-rights promotion, the rule of law and public participation.

Following its admission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Vietnam acceded to the Canada-ASEAN Economic Co-operation agreement in 1996 and is eligible to participate in Canadian development co-operation projects designed to benefit ASEAN regional institutions.

In 1996, Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to begin the Information Technology Project. This project will help improve the institutional framework for policy development and the implementation of information technology in Vietnam.

December 1997

Backgrounder

CANADA-LAOS RELATIONS

Canadian bilateral relations with Laos have until recently been limited. Canada is endeavouring to strengthen ties both at the bilateral level and in the context of its position as a dialogue partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Canada maintained a resident delegation in Vientiane from 1954 to 1973 as a member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control, designed to oversee the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos. Since 1975, approximately 15 000 Laotians have resettled in Canada. In October 1994, the first ever visit to Canada was made by a Laotian Foreign Minister, H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat. Diplomatic relations are assumed by the Canadian Ambassador in Bangkok, who is accredited to Laos, and the Laotian Ambassador in Washington, who is accredited to Canada.

A modest Canadian private-sector interest has developed as a result of the Laotian economic reforms introduced in recent years. Canada's trade relationship with Laos is very limited, totalling \$1.149 million bilaterally in 1996.

Canadian exports to Laos vary from year to year and usually consist of fertilizers, construction equipment and pharmaceutical products. Laos exports textiles and clothing to Canada, and a new textile arrangement has recently been negotiated. Several Canadian firms have shown interest in projects funded by international financial institutions, particularly in the telecommunications and hydropower sectors, in which Canada has considerable expertise.

Canada restored the eligibility of Laos for official development assistance early in 1990, but bilateral funding was limited to Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funds for grassroots projects managed by the Embassy. For the 1996-1997 fiscal year, Canada contributed approximately \$275 000 in development aid to Laos. The largest part of this aid is still disbursed by the Embassy and focusses on small-scale projects such as rural water-supply projects, the restoration of a non-formal education centre, and training, primarily in health provision.

Laos, which became a member of ASEAN in July 1997, also benefits from CIDA support to regional institutions, through programs promoting regional co-operation and integration, technical assistance and technology transfer.

December 1997

News Release

January 13, 1998

No. 7

CANADA-U.S. CO-OPERATION EFFECTIVE DURING RED RIVER FLOODING, INTERNATIONAL REPORT CONCLUDES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed today the Interim Report on Red River flooding prepared by a special task force of the International Joint Commission (IJC). The Canadian and U.S. governments requested the IJC's assessment in May 1997, in the wake of the disastrous effects of the Red River flood in 1997 on the citizens of Manitoba, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota.

"I look forward to meeting U.S. Secretary of State Albright later this winter, and I intend to review with her the interim recommendations that will bring the most practical benefit to Canadians," said Minister Axworthy.

The Interim Report concludes that co-operation between Canada and the United States was effective during the flood, as were the pre-flood emergency preparedness measures. The report also notes some 40 improvements that it recommends can be instituted in the short-term and permanently adopted by the governments and agencies involved.

The report highlights the importance of a basin-wide, cross-border approach. Canada will initiate discussions with the United States on permanent emergency measures to facilitate the cross-border transfer of emergency equipment and personnel, better sharing of forecasting information, the establishment of virtual modelling of floodwater flows, and the prevention of groundwater contamination.

For example, virtual modelling of floodwater will help to predict overland flows, thus increasing the potential for fine-tuning flood-mitigation and flood-proofing measures in vulnerable localities. Canada has much experience in geomatics, which can be linked with expertise from throughout the Red River basin.

The report further noted that any new flood-mitigation and flood-proofing measures taken on either side of the border, whether by



government or individuals, should be co-ordinated and examined to determine possible damage to others within the basin.

"I will also immediately initiate discussions with the province and my Cabinet colleagues, the Ministers of National Defence, Environment, Agriculture, Western Diversification and Transport Canada, about implementing the report's recommendations as rapidly as possible," said Mr. Axworthy. "For example, on managing hazardous wastes, the report recommends a public awareness campaign, perhaps in partnership with industry and farm associations, and compiling an inventory of potential sources of contamination."

The IJC is an independent binational body overseeing co-operation between Canada and the United States on issues of transboundary water management and quality. It was established under the 1909 *Boundary Waters Treaty*, and is the cornerstone of Canada-U.S. co-operation on the environment along the shared border. The IJC has authority to issue orders of approval for use, diversion or obstruction of waters that flow along the boundary, and on certain rivers crossing the boundary, in cases where natural water levels and flows may be affected.

The report has been submitted to the Governments of Canada and the United States, and has been shared with Manitoba, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota. The IJC's current terms of reference call for the final report by the end of 1998.

The Interim Report is available from the Canadian Section of the IJC at (613) 995-2984.

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[News]

Release

January 13, 1998

No. 8

TEAM CANADA SIGNS LARGEST-EVER NUMBER OF DEALS TODAY IN MEXICO CITY

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Team Canada members today witnessed the signing of the largest number of business deals ever signed at one time during a Team Canada mission. Canadian businesses and educational institutions signed 91 new business deals worth \$229.9 million in Mexico City, the first stop on the mission.

The deals signed included \$173.5 million in commercial contracts and \$56.4 million in agreements in principle, including memorandums of understanding and letters of intent.

Canada's EDC (Export Development Corporation) also signed 11 agreements establishing \$600 million in lines of credit and related facilities to assist Canadian exporters in pursuing opportunities in Mexico. As well, TransCanada PipeLines concluded two agreements that pave the way for work to begin on the construction of the Energia Mayakan Gas Pipeline, valued at \$380 million (US\$265 million).

"Today's signings demonstrate the diverse opportunities that abound for Canadian and Mexican businesses, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses," said Minister Marchi. "These opportunities complement the strong ties that our two countries have built through freer trade, and lay a solid foundation for further exchanges."

Companies entering new business relationships in Mexico today represent a range of industries and expertise from across Canada. The deals mean new jobs not only for the companies signing, but also for their suppliers and other business partners.



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Details of the deals signed in Mexico City today are in the attached backgrounder.

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For information about the Team Canada mission, including photos for publication, please visit our Web site at:

http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/team_canada

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NEW CANADIAN BUSINESS INITIATIVES IN MEXICO

Mexico City, January 13, 1998

Aastra Technologies Ltd., Toronto, Ontario

Aastra and Network Engineering Corporation have entered into a joint venture agreement to market and sell consumer telephone equipment in Mexico. The joint venture will be a newly formed Mexico-based company to be named Aastra Telecom de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. ("AastraMex"). AastraMex will focus on developing the Mexican telecommunication products market beginning with Mexico's telephone companies. AastraMex's first year sales revenue is expected to be approximately \$6 million and \$9 million in 1999.

Alliance Medical Inc., Saint-Laurent, Québec

Alliance, a manufacturer of highly specialized medical equipment, has signed a contract with Industrial Medica of Mexico City for the distribution of its products in Mexico. Alliance, which employs 70 people, estimates the value of the contract will be \$400,000 over three years. Alliance believes the agreement will help to open up the South American market for its portable and mobile ultrasound devices, which can be used in obstetrics, gynaecology, radiology, urology, cardiology and cardio-vascular surgery. Alliance works with distributors in 55 countries.

Alta Genetics, Calgary, Alberta

Alta Genetics has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chamber of Commerce of Jalisco State, Mexico. The Chamber will promote Alta's livestock genetic products, focusing on those from Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Alta Genetics will reciprocate by performing the role of a promotional office for the economic activities of the State of Jalisco in the three western provinces. The office will focus on the reinforcement of competitiveness in the production centres of the state and will promote local development. Alta Genetics is engaged in the production, research and marketing of products and services based on cattle genetics. The company specializes in bull semen, cow embryos, live cattle and reproductive technologies. The company sells its products and services in more than 50 companies, which account for 82 per cent of its revenues.

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Ottawa, Ontario

The AUCC has signed a letter of intent with Mexico's National Association of Universities and Higher Learning Institutions (Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Educación Superior -- ANUIES) to promote greater cooperation between Canadian and Mexican universities. The two associations will also distribute information to their members regarding requests for linking with institutions in each others' countries on international cooperation projects and exchange publications and other information relevant to achieving this objective. The AUCC is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that represents all universities and degree-granting colleges in Canada.

B.C. Bearing Engineers Ltd., Burnaby, British Columbia

B.C. Bearing Engineers Ltd. has signed a memorandum of understanding with FAG Bearing Interamericana whereby B.C. Bearing Engineers Ltd. will become an authorized distributor of FAG Bearing products and services in Mexico. The project is valued at \$500,000, of which \$100,000 would be Canadian content. B.C. Bearing Engineers Limited supplies industrial products and services. The company represents over 100 manufacturers, with a product line that

includes bearings, power transmission components, materials handling components and variable frequency drives. B.C. Bearing employs over 300 people worldwide.

BRI International Ltd., Mississauga, Ontario

BRI has signed a contract with INLAC of Mexico City to conduct a series of workshops on ISO 9000, ISO 1400, QS 9000 and health and safety management systems throughout Latin America. BRI's management systems trainers and implementation specialists work with private- and public-sector organizations worldwide to help them become more competitive. The company employs 30 people.

Bayly Communications Inc., Ajax, Ontario

Bayly Communications has signed a reseller agreement with New Com Telecomunicaciones. New Com will promote Bayly's digital telecommunications products to the telecom market throughout Mexico, and will provide technical support to end-customers. The agreement is expected to generate about \$1 million annually in business revenues. Bayly Communications Inc. manufactures and sells digital access and transmission products to domestic and international markets.

Berg Chilling Systems Inc., Scarborough, Ontario

Berg Chilling Systems Inc. has signed a contract with Kimex S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City to purchase their third mould dehumidification system, which will enable them to improve their cycle times on their injection moulding machines, by allowing them to run colder mould temperatures without mould sweating. This particular phase of expansion is valued at \$42,000 (US\$29,000). Berg Chilling designs and manufactures cooling solutions for industrial processes. Large centrally integrated cooling systems have been sold and installed in most of the Mercosur countries (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay) and throughout the world.

Berg Chilling Systems Inc. has also signed an agency agreement with Grupo Corporativo Inmaplast of Mexico City to identify projects in Mexico and work with Berg to develop and procure system purchases from Mexican customers. The first years annual quota is expected to produce \$933,000 (US\$650,000) and will increase as knowledge of Berg's product and relationship develop.

Berg Chilling Systems Inc. has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Cajaplast S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City to facilitate the augmentation and integration of their cooling system for their state-of-the-art plastics processing facility. This particular phase of expansion is valued at \$57,000 (US\$40,000).

BioChem Immunosystems Inc., Montreal, Québec

BioChem Immunosystems Inc., the diagnostic subsidiary of Biochem Pharma Inc., has reached a \$1.15 million contract, \$100,000 of which is Canadian content, with Omega Scientific S.A. de C.V. to distribute BioChem's immunology and haematology products in Mexico. BioChem will provide marketing and scientific, engineering and support service to Omega during the one-year agreement. Biochem Pharma is an international biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the research, development and commercialization of products for the prevention, detection and treatment of human diseases. Its subsidiary, BioChem Immunosystems, manufactures and markets cost-effective diagnostic systems and reagents, in three areas: immunology, endocrinology, and haematology. BioChem's products are distributed and marketed in more than 50 countries worldwide.

CINAR Films Inc., Montréal, Québec

CINAR has signed a \$2.2 million contract whereby MVS Multivisión will acquire an additional 12 children's series in Spanish, Portuguese and English for broadcast on its DirecTV Latin American satellite service. This is the third contract between CINAR and MVS Multivisión, now totaling more than \$5 million. CINAR Films Inc. is an integrated entertainment company involved in the development, production, post-production and worldwide distribution of non-violent programming and educational products for children and families. CINAR and its subsidiary Carson Delosa Publishing employ 350 people.

Canadian Association for Community Living, North York, Ontario

The CACL has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en Favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual (Confe) (Mexican Confederation of Organizations for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) of Mexico City on technical cooperation. The project will promote the education and employment of people with disabilities and in turn help alleviate poverty for this group. The CACL has more than 40,000 members.

Canadian Council for the Americas, Toronto, Ontario

The Canadian Council for the Americas (CCA) has signed a protocol of cooperation with the Mexican Council for International Business (CEMAI) to expand and strengthen communications between the two organizations and to agree on an action plan for the coming year. The purpose of this agreement is to help bring Canadian and Mexican business people together in order to stimulate greater trade and investment flows between the two countries. The CCA is Canada's principal private sector link between Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. With more than 600 members in six chapters across Canada, the CCA's primary objective is to encourage Canadian commercial interests in the region. CEMAI is responsible for strengthening Mexican business linkages with various regions and countries throughout the world. The Mexico-Canada Business Committee of CEMAI has prime responsibility for building the private sector's relations with Canada.

Canadian Tourism Commission, Ottawa, Ontario

The CTC has signed a memorandum of understanding with Canadian Airlines International in Mexico City that will establish a marketing program to promote tourism to Canada, primarily to Ontario and Quebec. Canadian Airlines will work with a variety of Mexican tour promoters to sell and operate its program. Sales are estimated at \$300,000.

The CTC has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Japan Airlines (JAL) in Mexico City that will establish a marketing program to promote winter and summer tourism from Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey to Canada, primarily to Alberta and British Columbia. Canadian Airlines will work with a variety of Mexican tour promoters to sell and operate its program. Sales are estimated at \$300,000.

Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Canadian Wheat Board has signed a supply agreement with Grupo Industrial Bimbo of Mexico City to supply Western Canadian Spring Wheat over a three-year period. The Canadian Wheat Board is one of the world's largest wheat and barley exporters, with annual sales revenues over \$6 billion. The board markets Prairie-grown wheat and barley to more than 70 countries.

Canadore College, North Bay, Ontario

Canadore College and Nipissing University in North Bay have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey to establish a program for the exchange of students and staff in the field of business administration. Canadore College and Nipissing University jointly offer a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in business information systems that corresponds to programs at the Instituto. Canadore College has developed partnerships with business and industry as well as academic institutions throughout Canada and the world.

Capilano College, North Vancouver, British Columbia

Capilano College has signed a memorandum of understanding with Instituto PanAmericano de Alta Dirección de Empresa (IPADE) of the Universidad PanAmericana that will lead to the exchange of faculty, development of curriculum and training of management trainees from both countries. Young Canadian managers will be placed in paid internship management positions in Mexico. Mexican managers will study in Canada to develop links with Canada and Canada's partners in Asia. Capilano College is a public community college offering English as a Second Language (ESL), university transfer, career/diploma programs, applied degrees (in conjunction with the BC Open University) and post-graduate diplomas in Asia Pacific Management and Environmental Science. Capilano has 600 employees.

Duha Group, Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Duha Group has signed a memorandum of understanding with Comex S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City to produce an integrated colour system to be used to market paint in Mexico and surrounding countries. Duha, which employs 300 people, designs and manufactures colour merchandising tools. It serves industries such as automotive manufacturing, and specialty industries such as stucco, grout and cosmetics.

Ecolo Odor Control Systems Worldwide, Mississauga, Ontario

Ecolo has signed a \$350,000 distributorship agreement whereby the AMTEK Group of Mexico City will become a full-service distributor for Ecolo's products and services, including the sale and service of Ecolo's systems to sewage plants, landfill sites, slaughterhouses, hotels, hospitals, restaurants and large residential complexes. Ecolo specialized in environmentally-friendly odour-control systems, and employs 25 to 35 people.

Eicon Technology, Montreal, Quebec

Eicon Technology, which offers worldwide remote-access solutions including WAN, ISDN and SNA connectivity, has signed a contract with Redes y Sistemas to supply equipment valued at more than \$753,000 (US\$525,000). Redes y Sistemas is a critical new partner for Eicon as the Mexican firm has a firm client base, including some of the largest users of IBM mainframes and wide area networks in the whole of Mexico.

Eicon Technology has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Bancomer S.A. to expand their ongoing relationship to include the analysis and recommendation of SNA connectivity during Bancomer's network transformation. Bancomer is a high user of IBM SNA networks and Eicon is a recognized internationally for the efficient deployment of SNA network connectivity. The agreement is valued at \$500,000 (US\$350,000). Eicon has recently won the pilot phase of a bank branch automation project which presently covers 100 branches and will eventually cover 400 branches.

Eicon Technology has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Telmex signalling their intent to work in cooperation to better understand the needs of users of ISDN services in Mexico. Eicon is recognized internationally for the deployment of ISDN. As Mexico's ISDN market emerges over the following months and years, Eicon's experience in ISDN deployment will be a valuable asset to Telmex. In return, Telmex will recommend the purchase of Eicon's ISDN products where applicable. The agreement is valued at \$143,000 (US\$100,000).

Eicon Technology has also signed a memorandum of understanding with IMSS (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social) signalling their intent to work in co-operation to better understand the needs of IMSS' employees as they undergo a major network transformation. Eicon is recognized internationally for connecting users to IBM-based SNA networks. Eicon will assist IMSS in assessing their current networking environment, and recommend a complete SNA connectivity strategy. In return, IMSS pledges to recommend the purchase of Eicon's products where applicable. The agreement is valued at \$358,000 (US\$250,000).

Esna Technologies Inc., Richmond Hill, Ontario

Esna Tech has signed a letter of intent with Grupo Teledinamica of Mexico City to sell Esna Tech's line of computer telephony and voice processing products in Mexico City and through Teledinamica's network of distributors across Mexico. Teledinamica is a leading supplier of customer premise equipment. Esna Tech specializes in providing computer telephony and voice processing solutions. Esna Tech employs 16 people.

Esna Tech has also signed a distribution agreement with TDE del Norte, headquartered in Ciudad Juarez, Chih., to sell Esna Tech's line of computer telephony and voice processing products through TDE's distribution network. The project is valued at \$850,000 per year. TDE manufactures computer accessories and telephony products, reselling customer premise equipment through its regional offices in northern Mexico.

Export Development Corporation of Canada (EDC), Ottawa, Ontario

The EDC has signed a revolving line of credit valued at \$175 million with Banco Nacional de México (Banamex), Mexico's largest commercial bank. The financing will allow Banamex and the EDC to respond to the needs of Canadian and Mexican companies that are expanding trade between the two countries.

The EDC has also signed a letter of intent establishing a \$70 million line of credit with Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), Mexico's state-owned oil company. The financing is expected to assist Canadian exporters to secure opportunities related to Pemex's plans to upgrade its facilities and develop new fields in the next two years.

The EDC has also signed a \$7 million line of credit with Siderúrgica Lazaro Cardenas, Las Truchas, S.A. de C.V. (Sicartsa), the main operating subsidiary of Grupo Villacero of Monterrey, Nuevo León. The financing is expected to assist Canadian exporters to pursue opportunities with Sicartsa, a major steel producer in Mexico.

The EDC has signed a protocol valued at \$7 million with Banco Inbursa S.A. (Inbursa), a Mexican bank targeting the key corporate sector entities. The facility will provide medium-term financing to help Canadian exporters secure sales of goods and services to Mexican companies that use Inbursa as their lead bank.

The EDC has signed a protocol valued at \$7 million with Banco Bilbao Vizcaya de México, S.A. (BBV México), which is owned by BBV, Spain's second largest banking group. The facility will provide medium-term financing to assist Canadian exporters in the sale of capital goods and services to Mexican companies who have BBV as their lead bank.

The EDC has signed a protocol valued at \$14 million with Banco Mercantil del Norte (Banorte) of Monterrey, one of Mexico's leading regional banks. The facility will provide medium-term financing to assist Canadian exporters in the sale of capital goods and services to Mexican companies who have Banorte as their lead bank.

The EDC has signed a protocol valued at \$28 million with Banco Nacional de Crédito Rural (Banrural), Mexico's state-owned rural development bank. The protocol will provide medium and long-term financing to assist Canadian exporters of breeding cattle and related goods and services to sell their products to Mexican producers and cooperatives who are renewing their dairy herds.

EDC has signed a new line of credit valued at \$175 million with Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior (Bancomext), a state development bank. The financing is expected to assist Canadian exporters to develop business opportunities with public and private buyers who are upgrading their production facilities.

The EDC has signed a facility valued at \$33 million with Nacional Financiera S.N.C. (Nafin), a state development bank dedicated to small-and-medium-sized Mexican enterprises. The facility will assist Mexican companies in buying Canadian breeding cattle and related goods and services.

EDC has signed a protocol valued at \$14 million with Banco Internacional, S.A. (Bital), a commercial bank targeting medium-sized Mexican companies. The financing is expected to assist Canadian exporters to secure sales of goods and services to Mexican companies that use Bital as their lead bank.

The EDC has signed a letter of intent with the Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE), Mexico's electrical utility, to establish a \$70 million line of credit. The financing is expected to assist Canadian exporters to secure opportunities in new capital projects CFE will undertake to upgrade and modernize its infrastructure.

Fording Coal, Calgary, Alberta

Fording has signed two contracts with Siderurgica Lazaro Cardenas Las Truchas, S.A. de C.V. for the sale of 150,000 tonnes of hard coking coal and 115,000 tonnes of injection coal. The total value of the contracts is \$17 million, and can be renewed annually. Fording, which employs 1,800 people, is Canada's largest exporter of coal, producing over 20 million tonnes in 1996 with total company revenues of \$915 million.

Harris Canada Inc., Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, Quebec

Harris Canada has signed a contract with Alestra of Monterrey. The project is valued at \$5 million. To connect large business customers to their network, Alestra is installing microwave radio links, and has ordered 108 terminals of Harris MicroStar and GlobeStar radios manufactured in Canada. Alestra, an AT&T company, is a leading long distance company in Mexico that competes with Telmex and Avantel for the national long distance traffic. Harris

Canada specializes in the design, manufacture, installation and support of wireless telecommunication networks for global markets. The company employs more than 750 people, and generates 90 percent of its sales through exports.

Harris Canada has also signed a contract with IUSACELL of Mexico City for the purchase of 196 terminals of Harris MicroStar radios. The project is valued at \$6 million. IUSACELL, a major cellular network operator in Mexico, is upgrading their network from AMPS to CDMA. They must replace all their microwave links with newer digital radios of higher capacity. Harris Canada specializes in the design, manufacture, installation and support of wireless telecommunication networks for global markets. The company employs more than 750 people, and generates 90 percent of its sales through exports.

Hepburn Engineering Inc., North York, Ontario

Hepburn Engineering has signed a contract with Compania Fresnillo S.A. de C.V., a subsidiary of Industrias Penoles S.A. de C.V., the world's largest producer of silver, for the mechanical and electrical revamp of a mine hoist. The contract is valued at approximately \$1.3 million. Hepburn's mining group supplies mine hoists and digital controls and automation, including ore weighing systems for all types of hoisting applications, including shaft sinking, single or double-drum hoists, service hoists and friction hoists.

Hepburn Engineering has also signed a contract with Industria Manera Mexico S.A. (IMMSA) of Mexico City, a subsidiary of Grupo Mexico, to purchase a mine-hoist automated ore-pocket weighing system.

Herman Enterprises, Calgary, Alberta

Herman Enterprises has signed a letter of intent establishing a joint venture with Turbana S.A. de C.V. to supply log cabins to two vacation areas -- Mazamitla, a weekend getaway in the mountains and Isla Navidad, a five-star destination on the Pacific Coast. Herman Enterprises is a management consulting company, focusing on urban infrastructure developments, and employs 20 people.

IDACSA (Importadora y Distribuidora de Alimentos Congelados SA de CV), Toronto, Ontario IDACSA has signed a contract with ISSSTE of Mexico City to supply 175 grocery stores throughout Mexico over the next four years. The value of the project is \$11.7 million. ISSSTE is a national grocery store chain owned by the Mexican government. IDACSA was established to export quality Canadian manufactured frozen food products to Mexican supermarkets and institutions.

IDACSA has also signed a contract with International Logistics Network (ILN) of Mexico City to supply 150 Mexico City chain grocery stores, and an additional 200 grocery stores throughout Mexico, with Canadian manufactured frozen foods. The project is valued at \$18.72 million. ILN is a national distribution company providing frozen delivery service to retail stores throughout Mexico.

IDACSA has also signed a contract with OXXO (FEMSA) of Mexico City to supply the 110 Mexico City OXXOs with Canadian manufactured frozen food. The project is valued at \$5 million. Future plans call for expansion throughout Mexico where OXXO operates more than 1,200 locations. OXXO Stores are 24-hour convenience grocery stores operating in business districts and local neighbourhoods throughout Mexico.

IFI, Anjou, Quebec

IFI has signed a letter of intent with Femsa Empaque of Monterrey that should lead to a licence agreement for the production of refrigerated display cases for the Mexican market. The project is valued at \$4.3 million (\$US 3 million). IFI's products are used in supermarkets, convenience stores, butcher shops, bakeries and restaurants.

John Meunier Inc., Montreal, Quebec

John Meunier Inc. has signed a contract with Protexa of Monterrey to supply specialized equipment for the sewage treatment plant for the city of Hermosillo. The project is valued at \$412,000. John Meunier Inc. has over 100 employees, and develops technologies and equipment for water treatment.

Lallemand Inc., Montreal, Quebec

Lallemand has signed a letter of intent with Grupo Industrial BIMBO S.A. of Mexico City for the installation of a liquid yeast system in BIMBO's Mexicali plant. The project, valued at \$500,000, may be financed by the Export Development Corporation of Canada, and should lead to additional agreements with a number of BIMBO plants. Lallemand hopes to develop sales of up to \$2 million a year with the BIMBO group over the next five years. Lallemand produces baker's yeasts and special strains of yeasts and bacteria for wine-making, beer-making, distilleries, and animal and human nutrition.

Logo Computer Systems Inc., Montreal, Québec

Logo Computer Systems Inc., a leader in constructivist educational technology, has entered into a formal collaboration with the Global Thinkers Organization, based in Mexico City, effective February 1, 1998. The objective of the joint venture is to prepare citizens to face the challenges of life in a knowledge-based society. Logo Computer Systems has 20 employees in Montreal, one in Brazil, and one in the United States.

Maloney Industries Inc., Calgary, Alberta

Maloney Industries Inc. has signed a joint venture agreement with Rio San Juan Construcciones S.A. de C.V. in Mexico City to provide state of the art technology and modularized production equipment and processing plants to the oil and gas sector in Mexico. The first project to be included under this agreement is the optimization and modernization of the Jujo Central Oil and Gas Processing Battery in Tabasco for Pemex. The notice of the award has been issued to Rio for this project valued at approximately \$71 million (\$US 50 million), of which a minimum of \$14 million (\$US 10 million) of technology and equipment would be Canadian content. Jujo is the first of several batteries to be modernized by Pemex under the Olmeca program, budgeted at approximately \$US 800 million. Maloney and Rio, one of Mexico's most important private contractors working for Pemex, have also agreed to cooperate on other Pemex projects, such as the Atasta gas treating plant and the Cantarell offshore development program. Maloney offers engineering, design, fabrication, installation supervision, commissioning, start-up and operations training services to onshore and offshore oil and gas development projects throughout the world, and currently employs more than 250 people directly.

Manitoba (Province of), Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Province has signed a memorandum of understanding with the State of Jalisco. The agreement is an addendum to an existing cooperation agreement between the State of Jalisco and the Province of Manitoba to strengthen cooperative links in priority areas such as education

curriculum and agribusiness training, rural development, trade development, and exchanges in the areas of culture, education, tourism and environmental protection.

Mar-Mex Canada of Toronto, Ontario

Mar-Mex, a leading exporter of building technologies and construction expertise, has signed a contract establishing a joint venture agreement with Constructora Edificadora e Inmobiliaria Verlum S.A. The project is valued at approximately \$34 million. The agreement is to build 1,600 low-cost houses for mortgage holders with INFONAVIT, Mexico's major housing agency.

Massload Technologies, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Massload has signed a contract with Identificación Pesaje y Control S.A. De C.V. of Mexico for the supply of electronic loadcells worth \$200,000. The companies believe that the value could double after one year, and are also discussing future joint venture manufacturing projects. Massload and its 30 employees manufacture a full line of electronic weighing equipment for industrial and agricultural applications. The company estimates that 60 to 70 per cent of all truck scales in Canada use Massload loadcells.

Mould-Tek Industries Inc., Scarborough, Ontario

Mould-Tek Industries has signed a memorandum of understanding with Plasticos Rex of Mexico City to facilitate the augmentation and integration of their material handling system for their state-of-the-art plastics processing facility. The project is valued at approximately \$1.03 million (\$US 720,000). Mould-Tek Industries Inc. designs and manufactures material handling equipment for the plastics industry. Centrally integrated material handling systems have been sold and installed in most of the Mercosur countries (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay) and throughout the world.

Mould-Tek has also signed a contract with AMP de Mexico S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City to facilitate the augmentation and integration of their material handling system for their state-of-the-art plastics processing facility. The project is valued at \$15,344 (US\$ 10,695).

Mould-Tek Industries has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Gillette de Mexico S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City to facilitate the augmentation and integration of their material handling system for their state-of-the-art plastics processing facility. The project is valued at \$43,000 (\$US 30,000).

Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alberta

Mount Royal College has signed a contract establishing a joint venture with the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) establishing Mount Royal College as the Canadian site for the ITESM international high school program. This program brings more than 200 students every year to Calgary to study on a full-time basis, and builds on the already extensive links between Mount Royal College and ITESM. Mount Royal employs about 1,600 people.

Mount Royal College has also signed a contract for a joint venture with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City that will implement phase II of a program to improve the teaching of mathematics, science, psychology and philosophy. In 1998, 25 teachers will spend six weeks in Alberta and British Columbia on the program, delivered by Mount Royal, in partnership with the Southern Institute of Technology, the Alberta Vocational College, the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic Board of Education.

Mount Royal College has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Universidad Veracruzana of Veracruz to work together to establish an exchange of professors, students and programs of mutual interest to both institutions. The program will increase international understanding and provide students with skills for the new economy.

Multiplants Inc., Grand Falls, New Brunswick

Multiplants Inc. has signed a letter of intent with Sabritas S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City to supply Canadian seed potatoes to be distributed to Mexican potato growers. After harvest, the potatoes would be sold to Sabritas for chipping and processing for chips. The project is valued at \$2.6 million (US\$1.815 million).

Newfoundland and Labrador (Government of)

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador signed a memorandum of understanding with CANACINTRA, the association of industry in Mexico that represents more than 30,000 member companies from the manufacturing, oil and gas and services sectors. The agreement will promote industrial cooperation, technology transfer and investment among local industry sectors in both geographical locations, with the purpose of strengthening the commercial relations of their respective economies.

Nexus Environmental International, Montreal, Quebec

Nexus has signed a joint venture agreement with Grupo Perfotec of Mexico City to offer environmental and energy technology services in Mexico. The joint venture's first project will involve the management of PCBs in Mexico. Nexus' projects in Latin America rely heavily on Canadian technology transfer and business structures that ensure the project's long-term benefit to both private and public interests. Nexus and Perfotec have been awarded Mexico's only permit to decontaminate PCB transformers and capacitors. Nexus specializes in value-added environmental and energy technologies, and employs 20 people in Canada and abroad.

North American Medical Emergency Services Inc., Calgary, Alberta

North American Medical Emergency Services Inc. has signed a contract with FONATUR of Mexico City, the Mexican Foundation for Tourism, in which FONATUR agreed to sell to North American a parcel of land in the Los Cabos area of southern Baja. The property will become the site for a hospital under development by the company and a joint venture partner, Latapi Clausell and Associates of Mexico City. North American Medical Emergency Services, Inc. was founded to provide top-quality care for visitors and residents in the Los Cabos region, Baja, Mexico. The Corporation designs, builds and operates innovative health care information and communications services. The company employs 13 people.

North American Medical Emergency Services Inc. has also signed a memorandum of understanding with a Mexican joint venture partner, Latapi Clausell and Associates of Mexico City, to establish a hospital in San Jose del Cabo in the Southern Baja region of Mexico.

North American Medical Emergency Medical Services Inc. has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Centro de Desarrollo Estrategico para la Seguridad Social A.C. (CEDESS) of Mexico City to jointly undertake research on health care needs in Mexico. Specifically, the two partners will engage in research focussed on renal dialysis requirements. One of the objectives of the joint venture is to identify programs that could be implemented in the Mexican health care system and lead to further Canada-Mexico cooperation in this field.

Northstar Trade Finance Inc., Richmond, British Columbia

Northstar Trade Finance has signed a contract with Eniaces Radiofonicos S.A. of Mexico City that establishes a loan of \$1 million to finance the sale of radio paging equipment from the Canadian company. Glenayre Electronics of Burnaby, B.C. Northstar Trade Finance Inc. was created to support Canadian exporters by offering financing to credit-worthy foreign buyers of eligible Canadian goods and services. Northstar brings together the export strengths of the federal government through the Export Development Corp. (EDC) and Western Economic Diversification, the provincial governments of British Columbia and Ontario, and the private sector through Dalhousie Financial Corporation, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal. Northstar fills a recognized gap in the financial market by financing export sales transactions of between \$100,000 and \$5 million with repayment terms of one to five years. Northstar employs 15 people. Glenayre Electronics Ltd., the Canadian manufacturing and development arm of Glenayre Technologies Inc., supplies paging infrastructure. Its B.C. location employs more than 850 people.

Northstar Trade Finance has also signed a loan agreement with Nutrigo S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City that establishes a loan of \$700,000 to support the sale of high-speed thermo-molders from G.N. Plastics of Chester, Nova Scotia.

Northstar Trade Finance has also signed a contract with Kimex S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City that establishes a loan of \$1.5 million for the purchase of a plastic injection molding system from Husky Injection Molding Ltd. of Bolton, Ontario.

Northstar Trade Finance has signed a contract with Importaciones Electronicas Ribesa S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City that establishes a loan of \$2.81 million for the purchase of wireless paging systems from Glenayre Electronics Ltd. of Burnaby, British Columbia.

Olds College, Olds, Alberta

Olds College has signed a letter of intent with SEP-DGETA, a branch of Mexico's Ministry of Public Education specializing in agricultural-technical education that has 230 schools throughout Mexico. The letter of intent focuses on developing methods in competency-based approaches to the development of technical education and industry linkage models. The program would involve an exchange of method specialists, instructors and administrators for the purpose of exchanging experiences, adapting methods and performing trials and pilot applications. Olds College employs about 300 people.

Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Toronto, Ontario

The Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism (MEDIT) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior (Bancomext) to pursue co-operative activities in priority sectors in order to promote business and commercial relations between Ontario and Mexico. This agreement covers mutual co-operation, exchange of information, business promotion, staff education and training. Attention will be given to the following sectors: food industry, mining, construction, environmental protection, industrial machinery, and computer systems, hardware and software.

Pamzo Enterprises, Norris Arm, Newfoundland and Labrador

Pamzo Enterprises, a manufacturer and distributor of household cleaning products, has signed a letter of intent with Industrias JLC S.A. of Iztapalapa, Mexico, to confirm the purchase from

Pamzo of Lesspak concentrated dry-type detergents packaged in water soluble packets and/or bulk packaging. The company expects its sales in the first year to be more than \$250,000.

Pan American Games Host Society Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Pan American Games Host Society has signed a contract with Organizacion de la Television Ibero Americano (OTI) of Mexico City to ensure that the Pan American Games will be broadcast throughout Latin American each day for all 16 days of the event. The agreement means that the games will reach a potential audience of more than 300 million people in Latin America. The games will run from July 23 through August 8, 1999.

PCI Geomatics Group Inc., Richmond Hill, Ontario

PCI has signed a joint venture agreement with Niveles S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City establishing a joint venture company, PCI Geomatica, to provide geographic mapping and education services to Mexico, Central American and the Caribbean. Niveles S.A. manufactures precision optical instruments and distributes a variety of advanced technology products. PCI provides software for the geomatics market, specifically the remote sensing, digital photogrammetry, spatial analysis, and digital cartography sectors. PCI has more than 7,000 licences installed in 100 countries, and employs 140 people.

Positron, Inc., Montreal, Quebec

Positron has signed a contract with CIECER of Mexico City whereby CEICER will become the exclusive distributor in Mexico for the sale and support of Positron's emergency response systems. Projected sales revenue of \$10 million is expected from the partnership within the next four years. Positron specializes in the design and manufacture of 911 emergency products and software, including specialized telephone and radio dispatchers, emergency systems for public safety, and fibre-optic equipment. The company is the provider of the 911 emergency center software and equipment in more than 2,600 cities in North America.

Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

The School has signed a letter of intent establishing a joint venture that would offer an intensive executive education course called Strategic Evolution and Revolution in the Americas. Its partners in the project, designed to teach senior executives effective strategies for entering or expanding business in the Latin American market, are the Instituto Panamericano de Alta Direccion de Empresa (IPADE) in Mexico City and the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia in the United States. The course will be offered in two, five-day modules in Mexico City and Mississauga in June.

Roche Ltd. Consulting Group, Sainte-Foy, Québec

Roche Ltd. has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of the State of San Luis Potosí to undertake the preparation of the hydraulic master plan for the urban and surrounding areas of the city of San Luis Potosí. Roche will help define the hydraulic strategic plan and priorities in co-operation with the state government, will contribute to the design and financing of projects and will be involved in other aspects of natural resources development. Roche specializes in water and natural resource development and in environmental engineering.

Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, Ontario

The Royal Canadian Mint has signed a contract with Banco Inverlat of Guadalajara for the sale of Maple Leaf gold coins. The project is valued at \$25 million. The Royal Canadian Mint is the national mint of Canada and is a Crown Corporation of the Government of Canada. It mints

domestic and foreign circulation coins, commemorative collector coins, and the Gold Maple Leaf coins. It also a premier refiner of gold.

SNC-Lavalin International Inc., Montreal, Quebec

SNC-Lavalin, in a joint venture with Grupo Marhnos called Grupo ProAgua S.A., has signed a contract with the Comisión Estatal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado de San Luis Potosí (S.L.P.) for the design, construction and operation (for 15 years) of two waste water plants and associated irrigation systems in the municipality of S.L.P. The project's total value is \$94.75 million, of which \$5.1 million would be Canadian content. The work includes the construction of 20 kilometres of collectors and piping and two pumping stations. SNC-Lavalin is Canada's largest engineering firm, and employs more than 6,500 people. The company is working on projects in more than 70 countries.

SNC-Lavalin, in a joint venture with Grupo Marhnos called Grupo ProAgua S.A., has signed a contract with the Instituto Estatal del Agua de Oaxaca for the design, construction and operation (for 20 years) of the waste water treatment plant in the City of Oaxaca and surrounding municipalities. The total project is valued at \$54.4 million, of which \$4.9 million would be Canadian content.

Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, Regina, Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC), which specializes in indigenous, university-level education and research, has signed memorandum of understanding with Universidad Autonoma de Chiapas (UNACH) to establish and implement a joint program in international indigenous studies on the Mexican partner's Chiapas campuses. The project will strengthen the capacity of UNACH to recruit Indigenous students and to provide relevant curriculum to communities. It will also strengthen SIFC's international centre and its Department of Indian Studies. The project will be implemented in four years at a value of \$810,000. The project is partially funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Serres Thériault Ltd., Grand Falls, New Brunswick

Serres-Thériault Ltd. has signed a letter of intent with Punta Colonel San Thelmo SPR de RL to supply all materials, equipment, technology and skills to develop 10 hectares of hydroponic vegetable greenhouses in Ensanada, Baja California. The project is valued at \$5.7 million (US\$4 million).

Serres-Thériault Ltd. has signed a letter of intent with Dr. Hector M. Leon Gallagos of Angel Demerutis and Sons Grupo Evia to supply all materials, equipment, technology and skills to develop 50 hectares of hydroponic vegetable greenhouses near Culiacan, Sinaloa. The project is valued at \$28.7 million (US \$20 million).

Serres-Thériault Ltd. has signed a letter of intent with Dr. Hector M. Leon Gallagos to supply all materials, equipment, technology and skills to develop 5 hectares of hydroponic vegetable greenhouses at Ensenada. The project is valued at \$4.3 million (US \$3 million).

Serres-Thériault Ltd. has signed a letter of intent with José Fox Quezida of Cerritos to supply all materials, equipment, technology and skills to develop 5 hectares of hydroponic vegetable greenhouses at Leon Guanajuato. The project is valued at \$4.3 million (US \$3 million).

Southmedic Inc., Barrie, Ontario

Southmedic has signed a distributorship agreement with Instrumentarium S.A. de C.V. of Mexico City for the distribution of Southmedic's Vapofil and Anti-Spil Anesthesia Vaporizer filler tubes. Southmedic designs, manufactures and distributes medical components, exports to 41 countries, and employs 50 people.

St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology, Windsor, Ontario

The college has signed a letter of intent with the Instituto Campechano in Campeche to begin student and faculty exchanges and the joint development of curriculum. Areas of interest include international business and trade, communications, tourism, social work, English and Spanish language courses and trade in agricultural products. St. Clair College Links with technology-based industries have helped St. Clair College incorporate the latest technologies into its programs, and works closely with the business community. The college employs 560 people.

Stentor, Ottawa, Ontario

Stentor, the alliance of Canada's 11 major telephone companies, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Mexico's largest telecommunications company, Telefonos de Mexico (Telmex) for international telecommunications services between Canada and Mexico starting in October 1998. The agreement is part of the company's larger plans to enter the international telecommunications market when it opens to competition in October 1998.

TCC Communications Corp., Victoria, British Columbia

TCC has signed a distribution agreement with Access of Monterrey to distribute TCC's TELEtranslator product line in Mexico. Access is an established television distributor with offices throughout Mexico. TCC employs 15 people. The agreement calls for the distribution of 10,000 units with a value of about \$6 million. The TELEtranslator automatically produces Spanish subtitles for all popular TV programs and video movies from North America. The TELEtranslator PLUS, designed for schools and institutions, automatically subtitles TV programs in any combination of languages at any reading level. All of TCC's products help people learn to read more quickly or to learn new languages in context by integrating advanced technology into friendly, easy-to-use products. TCC employs 15 people. Its advanced language engineering technology is developed in cooperation with the Natural Language Laboratory at Simon Fraser University and with the support of the Science Council of British Columbia and the National Research Council of Canada.

Tech Sea Corporation Ltd., Miramichi, New Brunswick

Tech Sea has signed a \$500,000 contract, plus a \$1 million memorandum of understanding for an additional \$1 million with Ocean Gardens Products Ltd. of Mexico City to supply a specialized system designed to hold live spiny lobster, crab and other shellfish before they are exported. The 10-ton system uses modular holding tanks and a unique filtration and refrigeration system. It is designed to hold up to five different species in a controlled Tech Sea manufactures holding and transport systems for live seafood. Tech Sea employs 35 people.

TransCanada International Business Development Ltd., Calgary, Alberta

TransCanada and its partners InterGen, an affiliate of Bechtel Enterprises of San Francisco, California and Gutsa Construcciones of Mexico City (Mayakan partners) have signed agreements with Pemex and Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE) for the Energia Mayakan Gas Pipeline project. The pipeline will transport natural gas from the Pemex facilities at Ciudad Pemex and will deliver natural gas to several power plants in the states of Campeche and Yucatan in Mexico's

Yucatan Peninsula. Today's signing with Pemex authorizes the interconnect between the Pemex system and the new pipeline. The signing between CFE and Mayakan is a letter of conveyance confirming the successful financial close on the project allowing construction to begin. The contract for the pipeline was awarded by Mexico's Comision Reguladora Energia (the equivalent of Canada's National Energy Board) in March 1997. The project is valued at \$380 million (US\$265 million), of which 62.5 per cent or \$237.5 million is Canadian content. Construction is slated to begin in the first quarter of 1998. TransCanada employs 2800 people, and uses its skills in all facets of energy management, including oil and natural gas pipelines, gas processing, marketing and trading and chemical processing, to assist emerging countries to develop their energy resources.

Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec

The Université de Sherbrooke and the Universidad de Guanajuato have signed a memorandum of understanding that establishes a cooperation agreement for teaching programs in environmental science and engineering, joint research projects, student exchanges in research training programs, scientific demonstrations and scientific and technical information exchange that draws upon the expertise of both universities. The Université de Sherbrooke employs 3,400 people.

University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta

The University of Lethbridge faculty of management has signed a contract with Universidad Panamericana of Mexico City and Guadalajara and Universidad de Bonaterra of Aguascalientes to establish an exchange program. The program will advance shared goals in teaching, learning and research relevant to the operation of market economies. The University of Lethbridge offers a variety of programs focussing on international students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

The University of Manitoba (UM) has signed an agreement with the Autonomous University of Guadalajara (UAG) to develop academic exchanges that will enhance research and academic programs. Implementation will be initiated first in the area of agribusiness with the faculty of Natural Sciences and Agriculture, UAG, and the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, UM. UM currently has an academic staff of 1,335 and 20,709 undergraduate and undergraduate students.

University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan

The University of Regina has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Universidad Autonoma de Campeche to provide for the exchange of students and faculty members. Under the terms of the agreement, undergraduate and graduate students from each university will travel to the other's for study, and faculty members will work to develop areas for joint research and scholarship. The two universities are members of a tripartite partnership working in the area of ecotourism.

The University of Regina has also signed an agreement with *Universidad Panamericana* of Mexico City extending by five years an existing memorandum of understanding which provides for the exchange of students and faculty in all disciplines. Primary areas to date have been in business studies and in the study of English as a second language and Spanish as a second language.

University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

The University has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Universidad Autónoma to protect and preserve endangered mangrove wetlands on Mexico's west coast. The institutions will collaborate on research and exchange students and academic staff. Western receives over \$80 million in research funding annually, and currently has almost 200 international research agreements.

Vancouver Maple Leaf Language College, Vancouver, British Columbia

The college has signed a contract with Experimento de Convivencia Internacional of Mexico City to provide English language training at its Vancouver location to students from Mexico. The students will also be immersed in Canadian culture through a home-stay program with Canadian families and with extensive extra-curricular activities. The students will be recruited and prepared for study in Canada by Experimento de Convivencia Internacional. The contract is valued at \$59,920. Vancouver Maple Leaf Language College offers year-round English as a Second Language (ESL) training and the following special programs: English plus Business; Secretarial Skills; and Hospitality Management. The college employs 30 people.

Westcoast Energy International Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia

Westcoast Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding with Grupo ICA of Mexico City to jointly explore pipeline and power project opportunities in Mexico's natural gas sector. The initiative, coming three months after the two companies successfully partnered in the \$1.4 billion bid for the Cantarell nitrogen plant for Pemex, is of an open range. ICA is the largest construction company in Mexico, and is involved in a wide range of engineering-related projects. Westcoast Energy's interests include natural gas processing, transmission and distribution, providing energy products to 1.4 million people in Canada and the United States. The company employs 1,000 people.

Wulftek International Inc., Ayer's Cliff, Quebec

Wulftek has signed a memorandum of understanding with Tecnicos Y Asesoría Industrial S.A. de C.V. of San Luis Potosí to pursue negotiations on a joint venture company, Wulftec Internacional Latinoamericana in San Luis Potosí that would assemble wrapping machines for the local market. The two companies will begin their project with a comprehensive feasibility study. The project is valued at \$1.5 million. Wulftek designs and manufactures environmentally friendly stretch-wrap machinery. Wulftek exports to countries around the world, and won a 1997 Canada Export Award. The company employs 100 people.

Note: Information contained in this document has been compiled based on press releases and other submissions provided by the companies listed. The Government of Canada takes no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

News Release

January 14, 1998

No. 9

AXWORTHY SATISFIED BY ENVOY'S REPORT ON ALGERIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed satisfaction with the discussions initiated by Canada's Special Envoy to Algeria Claude Laverdure with senior Algerian authorities. The Minister said he hopes the discussions have opened the way to further dialogue with Algeria on providing some assistance.

On January 6, Mr. Laverdure, Assistant Deputy Minister (Europe, Middle East and North Africa), was designated as a Special Envoy to Algeria to convey Canada's sympathy, to urge greater transparency concerning the current terrorism there, and to offer Canadian aid to the victims. Mr. Laverdure travelled to Algeria where he met with Algerian Foreign Minister Attaf.

While in Algiers, Mr. Laverdure presented a letter from Prime Minister Chrétien to Algerian President Zéroual expressing the Prime Minister's concern over the continuing violence in Algeria, and offering some assistance. Minister Axworthy said a reply is expected soon.

Mr. Axworthy said the Algerian government welcomed Canada's initiative and the meeting with Mr. Laverdure was warm and cordial. The Algerian government said they also would welcome a mission of parliamentarians from Canada, as well as Canadian journalists, if they want to visit and report on Algeria.

"Based on these meetings, we are hopeful that we can have further discussions with Algeria in order to improve the situation for those in need," said Minister Axworthy.

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News Release

January 14, 1998

No. 10

CANADA SIGNS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORIST BOMBING OFFENCES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Canada has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing Offences. Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Robert Fowler, signed the Convention in New York, on behalf of the Government of Canada. The Convention was prepared at the initiative of the G-8, in response to increasing terrorist bombing attacks and new threats resulting from the terrorist use of chemical or biological agents and toxins.

"This Convention is an important step in the fight against international terrorism," said Mr. Axworthy. "It will close a major gap in the international legal framework against terrorism, and promote the international community's commitment to fight terrorism in all forms, irrespective of motive."

"The successful conclusion of this Convention is also tangible evidence that the counter-terrorism agenda developed by the Summit Eight partners can bring speedy and effective results that benefit the wider international community," added Mr. Axworthy.

Under this new counter-terrorism Convention, countries agree to recognize a new international offence, namely, the targeting of public places, government or infrastructure facilities, or transportation systems with explosives or other lethal devices, with the intent of causing death or serious injury, or the extensive destruction of property.

The Convention also obliges countries to take jurisdiction, in some circumstances, over offences committed abroad, and to prosecute offenders or extradite them. Moreover, suspects will not be able to escape extradition solely because their crime was based on political motives. Finally, the Convention contains provisions on mutual legal assistance and information exchanges.



The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 15, 1997. Canada played a major role in drafting the initial text of this Convention, and chaired the negotiations.

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[News]

Release

January 15, 1998

No. 11

NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS STRENGTHEN CANADA-BRAZIL PARTNERSHIP

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Canada's First Ministers today witnessed the signing of six bilateral agreements following a meeting with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

"These agreements consolidate Canada and Brazil as two of the largest and internationally most active countries in the hemisphere," said the Minister. "We will continue to work closely to enhance the solid partnership we have built up over the past few years, including the development of partnerships and strategic alliances in new and innovative areas such as distance education."

The Letter of Intent to negotiate a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement underlines the importance that Canadian business people attach to investing in Brazil. Canada is Brazil's ninth largest investor. This Agreement will support increased investment between the two countries.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Agricultural Co-operation expands and updates a 1977 MOU, and reflects the enhanced level of co-operation and contacts since that time. The MOU seeks to expand bilateral trade, monitor and resolve market access issues, establish contacts between organizations in both countries, involve the private sector in activities, meetings and



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decisions arising from the MOU, implement technology projects, and co-operate in research.

The Joint Declaration on Education Co-operation will encourage institutional linkages at all levels, educational exchanges, specialized training programs, research and development, improved recognition of studies, transfer of credit mechanisms, and establishment of scholarships. Canada and Brazil agree to promote the advancement of learning through technology and distance learning, and to co-operate in the development of Canadian studies programs and in education projects in Brazil.

The Declaration of Intent on Co-operation in International Demining Activities commits Canada and Brazil to work together to help third world countries remove landmines from their territories, and to assist victims of landmines, in particular their reintegration into society. The declaration follows the Ottawa Conference of December 1997 at which 123 countries signed the International Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and where conference participants agreed to work together to implement the key provisions of this Convention.

The Joint Declaration for the Maintenance of International Peace and Security highlights the growing co-operation between Canada and Brazil in this area. It provides, in particular, for strengthened efforts in UN peacekeeping operations and activities in the Organization of American States aimed at enhancing confidence and security-building measures in the hemisphere.

The Joint Declaration on Human Rights reflects the importance that both countries attach to the protection and promotion of human rights. The declaration highlights the ongoing co-operation between Canada and Brazil, especially in the Organization of American States, in which Canada and Brazil co-chair an initiative to promote democracy and human rights in the hemisphere. The declaration also commits both countries to increased bilateral efforts in judicial reform and police training, and increased co-operation with non-governmental organizations.

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News Release

January 15, 1998

No. 12

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Robin Cook, Chair of the General Affairs Council of the European Union, will visit Ottawa on January 16. Foreign Secretary Cook will be accompanied by Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission. Great Britain holds the rotating Presidency of the European Union (EU) until June.

This will be Mr. Cook's first official visit to Canada since his appointment as Foreign Secretary following the national election in Britain last May.

"During the visit, we will review mutual foreign policy concerns for Canada and both the European Union and the United Kingdom, including Algeria, Bosnia, Iraq, and the Middle East Peace Process," said Minister Axworthy. "Our discussions will be in preparation for the Canada-EU Summit in May, and to evaluate the progress of the Canada-UK Joint Declaration to revitalize our bilateral relations."

"In a bilateral meeting, Foreign Secretary Cook and I will discuss issues such as the situation in Nigeria, the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, and the establishment of an International Criminal Court," said Mr. Axworthy. "I also look forward to a briefing from Foreign Secretary Cook on the situation in Northern Ireland."

Minister Axworthy, Foreign Secretary Cook and Vice-President Brittan will participate in a Conference Board of Canada symposium entitled *Europe Towards the New Millennium: The Relevance to Canada*. Vice-President Brittan will also meet with Finance Minister Paul Martin during the visit.

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News Release

January 16, 1998

No. 13

MINISTERS WELCOME WTO APPEAL REPORT ON EU BEEF IMPORT BAN

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief today welcomed a report by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body confirming that the European Union (EU) ban on imports of Canadian beef violates its international trade obligations.

The Appellate Body clarified a WTO panel report released in August 1997, and upheld the panel conclusion that the EU's ban on imports of Canadian beef produced with growth-promoting hormones is contrary to its obligations under the WTO.

"This is an important step forward toward resolving this long-standing issue," Mr. Marchi said. "I expect the EU to act quickly on the Appellate Body findings."

"We will pursue every avenue to have the EU market reopened to Canadian beef," said Mr. Vanclief. "My department will be working closely with the Canadian beef industry until this goal is achieved."

In 1989, the EU imposed a ban on imports of Canadian beef produced with growth-promoting hormones. Canada requested a WTO dispute settlement panel in 1996 after direct consultations with the EU failed to resolve the dispute.

After the WTO Dispute Settlement Body adopts the Appellate Body report, the EU will have 30 days to indicate its intentions for implementing the WTO findings.

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News Release

January 16, 1998

No. 14

MINISTERS ANNOUNCE NEW YOUTH INTERNSHIPS IN EUROPE IN GLOBAL ISSUES, TRADE, AND CULTURE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that 12 Canadian organizations will place approximately 85 young Canadians in international internships in Europe. The announcement was made during a visit to Ottawa for a Canada-EU Ministerial meeting by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and Vice-President of the European Commission, Sir Leon Brittan.

These internships, which focus on the areas of trade, global issues, and culture, will take place in foreign government departments, non-governmental organizations, international institutions, and the private sector. The interns will be graduates with relevant backgrounds in areas such as international business, arts and crafts, journalism, civil engineering, sustainable development, international relations, and others.

"Approximately 600 internships for Canadian youths have been developed by the Department to date, in co-operation with 57 Canadian organizations from the private and non-governmental sectors," said Minister Axworthy. "These internships will provide knowledge and experience to help prepare the participants for a career in their field of expertise."

"Gaining experience for the future is what these internships are all about," said Minister Marchi. "Many of the Canadian youth participating in this program will be taking their first steps into the international business market. We are glad that the Canadian government can be a part of that."

Projects deal with a wide variety of international issues, such as women's and children's rights, education, Aboriginal issues, peace and security, global health, international trade, and environment. The program is open to persons 18-29 years of age, out of school, unemployed or underemployed. They must be legally permitted to work in Canada.



These projects are part of the Department's Youth International Internship Program of the Government's Youth Employment Strategy (YES). Launched in February 1997, International Youth Internship Programs are delivered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, Human Resources Development Canada, Environment Canada, Industry Canada, and Canadian Heritage. Funding is built into the existing fiscal framework.

The names of the organizations and institutions that will implement the internship projects in the coming year, along with a summary of each project, are on the attached list.

Individuals wishing to be interns on these projects should call 1-800-559-2888 or consult the Internship Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/youth/menu.ham for eligibility criteria and additional information about application procedures.

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INTERNSHIP PROJECTS IN EUROPE 1998-1999

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will place interns with leading sustainable development organizations and businesses around the world to contribute to the building of new knowledge networks using Internet technologies to deliver sustainable development research and practices from around the world to global audiences. Internship activities will focus on implementing information infrastructures in developing country institutions, communicating how to build sustainable development into world trade policies and government practices, and promoting sustainable solutions for the business sector. Interns should be graduates of international business, development, and related programs. For more information, please contact:

Carolee Buckler, Project Co-ordinator

Tel.: (204) 958-7748

E-mail: cbuckler@iisd.ca Web site: <http://www.iisd1.iisd.ca>

Acadia University will provide interns with opportunities to work in the area of democratic institution building in various countries. Internship activities will include assisting in the development of human rights education programs, technological training (Web site creation, Internet research training, electronic publishing), marketing skills development for non-governmental organizations to achieve self-sustainability, and organizational planning. For more information, please contact:

Dr. Marshall Wm. Conley, Department of Political Science

Tel.: (902) 585-1506

E-mail: Conley@acadiau.ca

Web site: <http://ace.acadiau.ca/polisci/Conley.ham>

Memorial University of Newfoundland will recruit candidates who have completed studies in social sciences, humanities, or business administration for internships with companies or organizations based in the United Kingdom, Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Scandinavia. Internship activities will provide interns with knowledge of organizations engaged in international commerce, business promotion, and economic development. For more information, please contact:

Dr. Steven B. Wolinetz, Department of Political Science

Tel.: (709) 737-7413 or (709) 737-8179

E-mail: swolin@morgan.ucs.mun.ca Web site: <http://www.mun.ca>

Native Law Centre of Canada at the College of Law of the University of Saskatchewan will offer internships with academic and research institutions to indigenous youth. Interns will likely be placed with organizations in Chile, France, Greece,

Greenland, Guatemala, New Zealand, Australia, and the Philippines. For more information, please contact:

Kathleen Makela
Tel.: (306) 966-6193
E-mail: makela@duke.usask.ca
Web site: <http://www.usask.ca/nativelaw/index.html>

Conseil des métiers d'arts du Québec (CMAQ) will offer internships to perform market studies and in-depth analyses of the trade policy and restrictions of the arts and crafts markets in France, Italy, Belgium, Germany and Japan. Candidates should be young professional arts and crafts graduates (e.g., glassware, ceramics, wood carving, etc.) or graduates of international trade or related fields. For more information, please contact:

France Clément
Tel.: (514) 861-2787
E-mail: info@artsquebec.com
Web site: <http://www.webavenue.com/cmaq/>

Canadian Museums Association (CMA) will offer placements within the worldwide museum community. Interns will be placed with a variety of museums, science centres, zoos, art galleries, and private sector consultants and corporations working in the museum field where they will be involved in organizing international travelling exhibitions, developing market opportunities for museums and cultural resources, or performing curatorial research. For more information, please contact:

Dawn Roach, Co-ordinator, International Youth Programme
Tel.: (613) 567-0099
E-mail: droach@museums.ca Web site: <http://www.museums.ca>

United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC) will provide placements with UN agencies and members of the World Federation of United Nations Associations to candidates with backgrounds in political science, international relations, sociology, journalism, communications, and international business. For more information, please contact:

Jacinthe Morin
Tel.: (613) 232-5751 Fax: (613) 563-2455
E-mail: unac@magi.com Web site: <http://www.unac.org>

Saint Mary's University will offer internship opportunities in international marketing and market research, business journalism, development and management of international projects on global issues (e.g., civil society, environment), and applied research activities in Vietnam, Egypt, Japan, Germany, the United States, Gambia, the Maldives, and Eritrea. Candidates should have relevant backgrounds. For more information, please contact:

Maureen Woodhouse
Tel.: (902) 496-8794
E-mail: maureen.woodhouse@STMARYS.CA
Web site: <http://www.stmarys.ca>

University of Toronto's Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) will offer internships in market research, business development and administrative support with private sector companies and internships in international communication, broadcasting and well-established non-governmental organizations operating in fields such as journalism, media relations, minority rights, and freedom of the press. Interns will be working in countries of East/Central Europe or the former Soviet Union. These opportunities will be relevant for candidates with backgrounds in business administration, liberal arts, or social sciences. For more information, please contact:

Robert Austin
Tel.: (416) 946-3132
E-mail: robert.austin@utoronto.ca
Web site: <http://www.utoronto.ca/crees/>

The **Centre d'expertise et de recherche en infrastructures urbaines (CERIU)** is a co-operative centre for technological transfer in the field of urban infrastructure reconstruction. CERIU will offer placements in private urban engineering firms in various countries to candidates with degrees in civil engineering. Candidates should be fluent in French. For more information, please contact:

Marie-Elaine Desbiens
Tel.: (514) 848-9885
E-mail: jeanpc@ceriu.interax.net
Web site: <http://www.ciec.net/sites/ceriu>

The **Greater Halifax Partnership**, in conjunction with the Canadian Swedish Business Association, will co-ordinate internships with corporate members of the Association based in Sweden or in Canada. Internship activities will focus on market research, business development and assistance with day-to-day operations. Candidates should have backgrounds in international business or other relevant disciplines. For more information, please contact:

Bryan Burns
Tel.: (902) 490-6000 or 1-800-565-1191
E-mail: bburns@istar.ca
Web site: <http://www.GreaterHalifax.com>

University of British Columbia's Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration will co-ordinate international business internships in Asia and Europe for candidates with an academic background in relevant areas, and seeking a career in international business. For more information, please contact:

Beth Cougler

Tel.: (604) 822-8269

E-mail: ip_user@nervana.commerce.ubc.ca

Web site: <http://www.commerce.ubc.ca>

News Release

January 16, 1998

No. 15

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL IN SWEDEN AND TO VISIT ICELAND AND GREENLAND

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will travel to Sweden, Iceland, and Greenland from January 19 to 21. In Luleå, he will attend the Barents Euro-Arctic Council which meets on January 19 and 20. The Canadian delegation to the Council also includes Mrs. Mary Simon, Canada's Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, and the Member of Parliament for Nunavut, Mrs. Nancy Karetak-Lindell.

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council comprises representatives of the Nordic countries, Russia and the European Union Commission (EC). Canada, the current chair of the Arctic Council, is an observer to the organization. Formed in 1993, it fosters co-operation among its members on sustainable development issues such as environmental protection, health, infrastructure and energy. The Council is also concerned about the economic, social and cultural well-being of indigenous peoples. With the exception of the EC, its members also make up a large part of the membership of the Arctic Council.

Barents Ministers will sign a Declaration reviewing accomplishments to date and setting out a framework for future action.

"Canada shares many of the objectives of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council for the circumpolar North," said Minister Axworthy. "I welcome the opportunity to compare experiences with a group of partners dedicated to finding a sustainable balance between traditional ways of life and economic development in the North. The links that we develop through these consultations, and the shared lessons learned, should benefit northerners from the entire circumpolar region."

The Minister will travel from Luleå to Reykjavik, Iceland on January 20 where he will meet with President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, Prime Minister David Oddson, and Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Halldor Asgrimsson, in order to strengthen ties and expand trade between Canada and Iceland.



On January 21, the Minister will pay a brief visit to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, in order to meet with Premier Jonathan Motzfeldt and Minister of Health, Environment and Research, Mrs. Marianne Jensen, to help reinforce the cultural and economic links between communities on either side of the Davis Strait.

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[News]

Release

January 16, 1998

No. 16

SECRETARY OF STATE KILGOUR OPENS CANADIAN EDUCATION CENTRE IN BRAZIL

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour today inaugurated the Canadian Education Centre (CEC) in São Paulo, Brazil – the 12th such Centre that Canada has opened worldwide. The Secretary of State also announced the opening of two satellite education centres at universities in Curitiba and Salvador, in partnership with the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUC PR).

"Learning is a lifetime occupation in Canada," said Mr. Kilgour. "The wider promotion of Canada's education expertise will encourage a greater number of exchanges between students, researchers, educators, and education specialists from both countries."

The Secretary of State added that the opening of the CEC, which is located at the Consulate General in São Paulo, is an important step in fulfilling the objectives outlined in the Declaration on Education Cooperation signed Wednesday in Brasilia.

In partnership with the PUC PR, the Canadian Education Centre Network, and the Canadian Embassy in Brazil, the Centre will provide marketing and promotion assistance to Canadian private



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and public education establishments on a subscription and fee-for-service basis.

The Brazil education market is the largest in South America and continues to grow. Forty-five per cent of Brazil's population – 66 million people – is of school age. The education technology market, currently estimated at \$29 million per year, is growing thanks to the potential number of users and the recent introduction of multi-media technology. More than 250 000 students currently study English in Brazil, and the number of Brazilian students studying in Canada has grown steadily, from 656 students in 1994 to over 1000 in 1997.

The CEC Network is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, with Centres in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Singapore, Australia, China, and Mexico. Canada also has opened three additional education resource and marketing centres outside of the CEC Network in Athens, Abu Dhabi, and Caracas. Canada plans to open up to 15 new education marketing centres by 2000.

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News Release

January 20, 1998

No. 17

CANADA RESUMES EMBASSY OPERATIONS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Canada has resumed its Embassy operations in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and that Verona Edelstein has been appointed as Ambassador.

"We resumed Embassy operations in Kinshasa in order to participate actively in international and regional efforts in pursuit of peace and security in the area," said Minister Axworthy. "Our presence will also enable us to engage the government in a sustained dialogue, thereby assisting in the achievement of good governance and the development of democracy and fundamental human rights and freedoms."

Operations at the Canadian Embassy have been suspended since May 1993. Canadian consular services have been available, however, through a Canadian Office in the Embassy of the United States in Kinshasa.

"Canada stands ready to support in a tangible way the Congolese government's endeavours in developing the country's social, human, and economic potential," said Minister Axworthy.

Ambassador Edelstein, a career diplomat, has held the positions of Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Relations Division, as well as Director, United Nations Social and Humanitarian Affairs Division. She was also co-Chair of the Interdepartmental Working Group responsible for the creation of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montréal. Most recently, from 1994 to 1997, Ambassador Edelstein was High Commissioner to Tanzania.

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[News]

Release

January 22, 1998

No. 18

INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER MARCHI OPENS CANADIAN EDUCATION CENTRES IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi inaugurated a Canadian Education Centre (CEC) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on January 20, and another in Santiago, Chile, earlier today. There are now four such Centres that Canada has opened in Latin America since the start of the Team Canada mission, making a total of 14 worldwide.

"Interest in the education sector on this Team Canada mission is unprecedented," said Minister Marchi. "There are 52 education and training service providers on this mission – a clear indication of the growing interest in developing long-term partnerships in the region."

The opening of the two CECs follows the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on Education Co-operation with Argentina and Chile.

The CECs will provide a full range of services to Canadian public and private educational institutions, including marketing their programs and securing corporate and group training contracts.

The CEC Network is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada, with Centres in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Singapore, Australia, China, Mexico, and Brazil.



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News Release

January 23, 1998

No. 19

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announces the appointment of **Paul S.H. Lau** as Consul General to Guangzhou (People's Republic of China).

Biographical Note

Paul S.H. Lau (BA, University of Western Ontario, 1971; MBA, Queen's University, 1973) joined the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1973. Early in his career, Mr. Lau served with the Royal Commission on the Northern Pipeline and was Chief Analyst with the Royal Commission on the Automotive Industry. He served in Beijing as a Trade Commissioner from 1979 to 1981. From 1981 to 1984, Mr. Lau was the Chief Negotiator for Japanese automotive investment projects, and from 1984 to 1987, was Manager of the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact. In 1987, he was named Director, Industrial Trade Policy, where he served concurrently with the negotiation teams for the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement. From 1991 to 1995, Mr. Lau was seconded to Industry Canada as the Senior Trade Commissioner at the International Trade Centre in Vancouver. Most recently, he has served as Senior Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. He is married to Shirley Chang and they have two daughters. Mr. Lau is Canada's first Consul General in Guangzhou.

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News Release

January 23, 1998

No. 20

CANADA JOINS INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie, today announced Canada's membership to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). The announcement was made during a visit to Ottawa by the Secretary-General of International IDEA, Mr. Bengt Säre-Söderbergh.

Based in Stockholm, Sweden, IDEA was founded in March 1995 to promote and advance democracy worldwide and thereby improve and consolidate electoral processes. It brings together governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the only international organization devoted exclusively to democratization.

"IDEA has proven itself to be a credible and effective organization, with a unique ability to combine research with practical assistance. Joining IDEA provides Canada with a valuable opportunity for building coalitions with other countries to co-ordinate our activities in support of democratic development and electoral assistance," said Mr. Axworthy.

"Canada's involvement with IDEA highlights the importance we place on building alliances," said Madame Marleau. "It will also enhance our role as a member of the global network encouraging electoral and democratic development and, in the process, will help support activities to prevent and resolve conflicts in troubled corners of the world."

Other member countries, international organizations, and international NGOs include Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, India, Namibia, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and Sweden, as well as the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the International Federation of Journalists, the International Press Institute, and Parliamentarians for Global Action.



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A co-operative agreement has also been reached with the United Nations Development Program, the International Commission of Jurists, and the International Parliamentary Union.

Canada will be providing IDEA with a voluntary contribution of \$150,000 for the fiscal year 1997-98 and \$300,000 for each of the next two fiscal years. Funds for the contribution will be shared by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

This contribution was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

January 26, 1998

No. 21

SECRETARY OF STATE KILGOUR TO ATTEND INAUGURATION OF NEW PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will attend the inauguration of the President of Honduras, Carlos Flores, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on January 27, 1998.

"We congratulate President Flores on taking office. Canadians have every hope that his program to reduce poverty and promote education, health, and economic security in Honduras will enjoy great success," said Mr. Kilgour.

On November 30, 1997, Carlos Roberto Flores Facussé, the Liberal presidential candidate, was elected to a four-year term. It was the fifth successive democratic election in Honduras.

The Secretary of State praised President Flores' commitment to participatory government, and expressed support for the new President's pledge to protect human rights in Honduras.

"Canada is committed to the economic, social, and democratic development of Honduras. Our trade and investment links with Honduras are growing, and Canada is also actively involved in a number of development projects in the country," said Mr Kilgour.

During his two-day visit, the Secretary of State will also tour *Los Laureles*, a Canadian-funded development project involving the reforestation of the watershed that supplies the reservoir for almost half of Tegucigalpa's water.

Canadian-sponsored development projects in Honduras focus on forestry, agriculture, and water development, as well as reducing poverty, responding to basic needs, and improving energy infrastructure.

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News Release

January 28, 1998

No. 22

MINISTERS TO MEET WORLD BUSINESS, POLITICAL LEADERS IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Industry Minister John Manley will meet with top business and political leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, January 30 to February 1.

The World Economic Forum is an annual event that brings together the world's most influential corporate decision makers to meet and discuss global economic issues with government leaders and senior media executives.

"This is an excellent opportunity to raise issues of concern to Canada, to exchange ideas and information with global decision makers, as well as to communicate what Canada has to offer in terms of trade and investment to the world's corporate community," said Minister Marchi.

Minister Marchi will participate in a panel discussion on the global economy with World Trade Organization Director-General Renato Ruggiero and Brazilian Foreign Minister Felipe Lampreia. Industry Minister John Manley has been invited to take part in a panel discussion on growth factors in the high-technology industry.

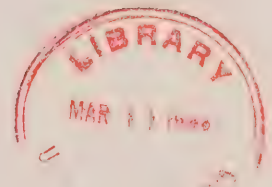
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News Release

January 30, 1998

No. 23

PRODUCTIVE MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS PARTNERS IN THE DEFENCE OF THE CHRYSOTILE FIBRE INDUSTRY

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale today expressed their satisfaction with the results of a meeting held by the Canadian government and its main partners in the defence of chrysotile fibre and its use internationally.

A meeting was held in Montreal on January 28 under Canadian government auspices to work out a concerted strategic approach. The participants agreed to pursue a series of initiatives set in motion last fall subsequent to one of the regular meetings held by the partners.

The Montreal meeting ended with an agreement to welcome a French government envoy mandated to review the measures taken by France, in order to determine whether they are still warranted in light of current scientific research.

"We will explore all possible ways of expressing Canada's position on this issue and protecting our access to world export markets. We would not rule out recourse to the World Trade Organization, if necessary," said Mr. Marchi. "Our priority has always been, and continues to be, protecting the Canadian chrysotile fibre industry and the thousands of direct and indirect jobs generated by it."

Numerous efforts have been made at the technical, scientific and diplomatic levels to convince our trading partners that the safe use of chrysotile fibre is the key to managing the risks associated with it.

"Our actions on behalf of the chrysotile fibre industry have been guided by discussions and consultations with our partners. We look forward to continued co-operation with them on this issue," said Mr. Goodale.



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The rapid development of the issue demands a constant review of the common strategy developed by the Canadian government and its partners.

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News Release

January 30, 1998

No. 24

INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER MARCHI WELCOMES CANADA'S ACTION PLAN FOR JAPAN

International Trade Minister Marchi today announced the release of Canada's sixth Action Plan for developing trade and economic relations with Japan. The 1998 Action Plan will guide both the government and the private sector on specific areas where the opportunities for Canadian companies to market their products in Japan are greatest.

"Canada's exports to Japan grew by over 5 percent in 1997. In spite of the recent financial turbulence in Asia, Japan continues to offer enormous potential for Canadian companies with competitive products," said Minister Marchi. "The Action Plan contains a wealth of information enabling Canadian exporters to benefit from business opportunities in Japan."

Canada's 1998 Action Plan for Japan identifies specific market opportunities and market entry approaches for seven priority sectors: agri-food and fisheries products; building products; information technologies; health care and medical devices; and consumer products including furniture, sporting goods, giftware, and tourism. The Plan also provides a list of contacts for Canadian businesses interested in the Japanese market.

Canada's four trade offices in Japan, working closely with other Canadian partners and exporters, will use the new Action Plan to assist Canadian companies in the coming months.

Bilateral trade between Canada and Japan now amounts to \$22 billion, with exports and imports roughly in balance. Japan is the second largest export destination for Canadian goods and the third largest source of foreign direct investment in Canada.

Copies of the Action Plan are available from the InfoTech of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at 1-800-267-8376 and (613) 944-4000. The Plan is also available on the following Internet site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ni-ka

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News Release

February 3, 1998

No. 25

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND OPENING CEREMONY OF WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES IN JAPAN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will travel to Japan following an invitation by Japanese Foreign Minister Obuchi to represent Canada at the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano on February 7, 1998.

"It is my pleasure to attend the opening of the 1998 Winter Olympic Games," said Minister Axworthy. "I am confident that Japan will make this a very successful event, and I look forward to strong performances by Canadian athletes in Nagano."

Minister Axworthy will also meet with his Japanese counterpart Foreign Minister Obuchi and representatives of other governments to discuss bilateral and international co-operation, including Canada's bid for UN Security Council membership and the Canadian-led initiative to ban anti-personnel land mines. Last December, in Ottawa, Japan joined 122 other states as a signatory of the land mines treaty.

"Japan is an increasingly important partner for Canada at all levels. I am particularly grateful for the compassion demonstrated by Japan to Canadian victims of the devastating ice storm. This gesture illustrates the strong friendship that exists between the Canadian and Japanese people," said Mr. Axworthy, in reference to a recent financial contribution by the Japanese government. The relief package is being managed by the Canadian Red Cross to assist victims of the January ice storm in Eastern Canada.

The 18th Winter Olympic Games will take place in Nagano, Japan, from February 7 to 22, 1998.

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News Release

February 5, 1998

No. 26

MINISTERS WELCOME AGREEMENT TO OPEN TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKETS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Industry Minister John Manley today welcomed the implementation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) Agreement on Basic Telecommunications.

The Agreement on Basic Telecommunications was negotiated in Geneva in February 1997 by member countries of the World Trade Organization. Canada and 71 other countries have committed to liberalizing their markets for telecommunications services.

"Increased access to this \$880-billion global telecommunications services market will mean more opportunities for Canadian exporters and more jobs for Canadians," said Minister Marchi. "Canadian companies are in a superb position to profit from this Agreement," he added.

"The implementation of this Agreement marks an important step in the liberalization of global telecommunications services," said Minister Manley. "The Agreement on Basic Telecommunications opens the doors for Canada's telecommunications industry to compete in this important sector."

The telecommunications sector is vital to the Canadian economy, contributing some \$18 billion or 3.3 percent of the gross national product. The industry is also a source of high-quality jobs, employing 145 000 people across Canada.

- 30 -

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News Release

February 9, 1998

No. 27

VICE-PRESIDENT OF CUBAN COUNCIL OF STATE TO VISIT CANADA



Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Dr. Carlos Lage, Vice-President of the Cuban Council of State, will visit Ottawa from February 12 to 13, 1998.

The visit will provide both countries with an opportunity to assess the progress made on the Canada-Cuba Joint Declaration, which Minister Axworthy signed in January 1997 in Havana. The Declaration highlights 14 target areas for bilateral co-operation encompassing a wide range of political, economic, and social issues.

"Canada's engagement in Cuba has resulted in a useful and constructive dialogue between our nations and helped us work on opening up the operating space in Cuba for both Canadian and Cuban non-governmental organizations," said Mr. Axworthy. "Since the signing of the Canada-Cuba Joint Declaration last January, we have worked to strengthen the human rights framework in Cuba through bilateral co-operation on women's and children's issues and on parliamentary procedure and structure. I would also highlight as an achievement the release from prison in 1997 of Cuban writer Cecilio Ismael Sombra Haber."

While in Ottawa, Dr. Lage will meet with a number of federal ministers and Canadian business representatives and sign two bilateral agreements.

In announcing the visit, Mr. Axworthy expressed satisfaction that Canada and Cuba were co-operating on human rights and exchanging views on economic policy and legal and financial institutions.

"Canada welcomed the recent decisions of Guatemala and Haiti to further diplomatic relations with Cuba," said Minister Axworthy. "It is a further step towards reintegrating Cuba into inter-American affairs."

A copy of the Canada-Cuba Joint Declaration is attached.



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JOINT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CANADA AND CUBA

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, visited the Republic of Cuba on January 21 and 22, 1997, responding to an invitation made to him by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, His Excellency Roberto Robaina Gonzalez. Minister Axworthy met with senior representatives of the Cuban Government, with whom he had the opportunity to exchange views on various issues of the bilateral relationship, the realities of both countries and international relations.

Both Ministers reaffirmed the high value of the longstanding and uninterrupted bilateral relationship between Canada and Cuba since its establishment in 1945. They underscored the fact that Canada-Cuba relations have always emphasized the importance of maintaining a frank and open dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect, not only on issues in which both sides agree, but as well on issues on which they differ.

The Ministers emphasized their mutual commitment and their right to conduct international relations on the basis of the defense of International Law. They reiterated the commitment to peace of their respective peoples and their common endeavours to promote social justice in an atmosphere of stability and unity, based upon the consensus of their respective citizens.

Ministers Axworthy and Robaina stated that as a result of the continuing development in bilateral relations and high-level discussions which have taken place in the past few months, Canada and Cuba have agreed to advance towards new initiatives within the framework of their bilateral relationship. These initiatives encompass a wide range of political, economic, and social issues.

In this context, they had the opportunity to assess a number of areas in which both governments have agreed to work jointly. Among these areas, the following examples can be cited:

1. Co-operation in the area of the administration of justice and the judicial-legal system, including exchanges of judges and judicial training.
2. Support exchanges between the House of Commons and the National Assembly, focusing on the operations of both institutions.
3. Exchange of experiences between both countries relating to the Cuban intention to strengthen within the National Assembly of People's Power a Citizens' Complaints Commission.

4. Broadening and deepening co-operation on the issue of human rights, which will include the preparation of seminars on diverse matters of mutual interest, academic exchanges between officials, professionals and experts, as well as sharing experiences and positions on the work of the specialized organizations of the United Nations.
5. Supporting the activities of Canadian and Cuban non-governmental organizations within the framework of bilateral co-operation between both countries and in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country.
6. Continuation of macroeconomic co-operation, with an initial focus in the areas of taxation and central banking, while studying joint areas in which Canada might continue to support the Cuban policy of economic reform.
7. The negotiation of a Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement.
8. Further collaboration on narcotics interdiction, including the negotiation of a bilateral accord.
9. The establishment of bilateral conversations on the issue of international terrorism and its prevention.
10. The negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Health Canada and the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba.
11. The negotiation of an audio-visual co-production agreement.
12. The renewal of a bilateral Sports co-operation accord.
13. The exploration of possibilities for joint research and development and co-operation projects in developing countries in the areas of health and environment.
14. The provision of food aid in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Lili.

Ministers Axworthy and Robaina welcomed these initiatives as a further example of the constructive collaboration which exists between both their respective governments and looked forward to continuing to work in the future on bilateral co-operation on a broad range of economic and social issues.

Havana, January 22, 1997

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News Release

February 12, 1998

No. 28

CANADA, CUBA SIGN NEW AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AND RENEW ANTI-HIJACKING TREATY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Transport Minister David Collenette today announced that Canada and Cuba have signed a new Air Transport Agreement in Ottawa. Minister Axworthy signed on behalf of Canada and the Vice-President of the Cuban Council of State, Carlos Lage, signed on behalf of Cuba. Mr. Lage is on an official visit to Canada, February 12 and 13, 1998.

The Agreement contains the operational and commercial flexibility needed for both the designated Canadian airline, Air Transat, and the Cuban national airline, Cubana Airlines, to fully support the expanding bilateral air travel market.

Cuba is one of the most popular Caribbean destinations for Canadians tourists; approximately 168 000 visited Cuba in 1997.

"Canada is very pleased with this opportunity to sign a new and more flexible Air Transport Agreement," said Mr. Axworthy. "The expansion of bilateral scheduled air services is essential to the continuing improvement of trade and tourism links between Canada and Cuba. We believe that both travel and shipping between the two countries will be better served by the increased number of Cubana Airlines' flights to Canada and by the growing commercial presence of Air Transat in this bilateral travel market."

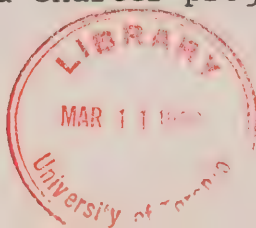
"As a direct result of this Agreement, Cubana Airlines has added two scheduled flights per week to Toronto, which complement its twice weekly service to Montreal," said Mr. Collenette. "Air Transat now offers scheduled service to Cienfuegos in addition to Havana and Varadero." Air Transat, the largest charter operator in the market, currently serves Cuba twice weekly on a scheduled basis.

The Agreement's new provisions on aviation security reflect significant improvements in Canadian requirements that have taken place in recent years. In addition, the Agreement provides greater certainty that proposed charter programs will be



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approved, and significantly reduces regulatory control over scheduled ticket pricing.

Mr. Axworthy and Dr. Lage have also renewed and amended an Anti-Hijacking Treaty between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of Cuba. The Treaty, which complements the new aviation security provisions included in the bilateral Air Transport Agreement, enables the expedited prosecution or extradition of those charged in air or vessel hijackings.

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A backgrounder on Canada's relations with Cuba is attached.

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Backgrounder

CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH CUBA

Canada's overall objective for Cuba is to encourage further commitment to human rights and assist in the economic and institutional development of the country. Canada has sought to do this through engagement and dialogue.

Canada and Cuba have had an unbroken official relationship since 1945. Relations between our countries reached a high point in the mid-1970s, but declined in response to Cuban military intervention in Africa. In June 1994, the Canadian government announced a number of adjustments in its policy towards Cuba. These included an increase in high level visits, enhanced support for Canadian businesses seeking opportunities in Cuba, and the re-establishment of eligibility for development assistance.

The June 1994 visit by the Canadian Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) was a major step in the advancement of Canada-Cuba relations. In 1995, Canada received several high-level visits from Cuban officials including the Cuban Minister of Foreign Investment and Economic Co-operation, the President of the National Bank of Cuba, and the President of the Cuban National Assembly. Cuba was visited the same year by the Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, who provided a major donation of medical supplies.

The Joint Declaration

In January 1997, the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, travelled to Cuba, the highest-level visit since 1976. During this visit, Minister Axworthy and his Cuban counterpart issued a Joint Declaration setting out a number of areas of agreed activity. Several of these were directly related to human rights and good governance, including the provision of Canadian expertise to the justice and legal systems, the sharing of Canadian experience in the strengthening of Cuba's infrastructure for receiving citizens' complaints, the establishment of an on-going dialogue on human rights, and the encouragement of parliamentary exchanges directly related to institution building. This declaration is unprecedented; for the first time, the Cuban government has committed itself publicly to working with a Western country on human rights and good governance.

Since the signing of the Joint Declaration, consultations involving both Cuban officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations have taken place on children's rights and women's rights. The Speaker of the House of Commons has initiated exchanges on parliamentary procedures and structure,

and there have been discussions on international efforts to combat terrorism. On October 2, 1997, Minister Axworthy met with Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina on the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for a broad discussion of bilateral and multilateral issues, including progress on the Joint Declaration.

Human Rights

Given our long-standing relations, Canada's status as a technologically advanced North American nation, and the lack of a heavily politicized agenda, Canada has been seen by the Cuban leadership as a trusted interlocutor with a balanced perspective. During active dialogue with Cuba, Canada has raised concerns over Cuba's human rights record. Canada has expressed its concerns bilaterally, as well as in multilateral settings such as the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights. Canadian officials meet regularly with human rights activists in Cuba, and have attended dissident trials. Canada was particularly pleased in May 1997 when the Cuban leadership co-operated in releasing to Canada a prisoner of conscience, Cecilio Ismael Sombra Haber, a renowned Cuban writer and journalist.

Commercial

Even before Canada established an official relationship with Cuba, trade and investment were growing between the two countries. Commerce continues to be a highlight of our bilateral relationship. Canada's objectives in the commercial sphere include fostering the development of a stable and open trading environment in Cuba and providing active assistance to Canadian businesses seeking to take advantage of commercial and investment opportunities.

The Canadian Government does not impose extraordinary restrictions on sales of Canadian goods and services to Cuba. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade supports trade promotion activities such as Cuban trade fairs and buyers or exporters missions. The Department also supports initiatives for the development of better market access and business conditions in Cuba, for example, the negotiation of a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement. On October 23, 1997, the Minister for International Trade, Sergio Marchi, met with Cuban Minister of Basic Industry, Marcus Portal, for a broad discussion of issues of interest, including trade and investment.

Canada is Cuba's third-largest commercial partner with two-way trade in 1996 estimated at \$670 million, up 12 percent from 1995. Our ties are strong in sectors such as tourism, mining, and agriculture. Cuba is Canada's largest trading partner in the Caribbean with Canadian exports reaching \$289 million in 1996. Exports to Cuba increased by 25 percent in the first nine months of 1997. The main Canadian exports to Cuba are: agri-food

(cereals, dairy products, meats, fish), fertilizers, paper and paperboard, wood products, machinery and parts, and electrical equipment.

Investment

Canada's foreign direct investment in Cuba, at book value, was estimated at \$99 million in 1996. The bulk of investments are in the mining, petroleum, electrical generation, and tourism sectors. There are also projects in the agriculture and industrial sectors.

Contacts/Tourism/Services

A large number of unofficial ties link Canada and Cuba, including universities, research institutions, musicians, town twinning, and many individual contacts. In 1997, 1.2 million tourists visited Cuba, approximately 168 000 of whom were Canadian.

February 1998

*Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade*CAI
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-CSS*News Release*

February 12, 1998

N° 29

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO VISIT ALGERIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that a delegation of Canadian parliamentarians will visit Algeria in March 1998 at the invitation of Algeria's National People's Assembly. The delegation will be led by the Minister of State and Government House Leader, the Honourable Don Boudria.

"I am pleased with this invitation by the National People's Assembly," said Mr. Axworthy. "This visit will take place within the framework of the political dialogue between Canadian and Algerian authorities, which has intensified recently following the tragic events in Algeria over the past months."

During their stay in Algeria, Minister Boudria and the other parliamentarians will discuss the security situation in the country and the plight of the people with their Algerian counterparts and with civil society, as well as other issues of common interest. Minister Boudria visited Algeria in December 1996.

"I am happy to return to Algeria to pursue further development of our relations with this country," said Minister Boudria. "I will express all Canadians' sympathy and solidarity with the Algerian population during this difficult period. In addition to the security situation, I also plan to discuss the bilateral relations between Canada and Algeria."

The Delegation will include Canadian parliamentarians, members of the Government and of the Opposition.

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CAI
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News Release

February 17, 1998

No. 30

MINISTERS LAUNCH TEAM CANADA INC HEADQUARTERS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the opening of the Team Canada Inc headquarters with Industry Minister John Manley and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief.

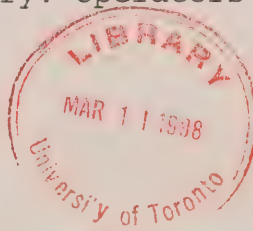
The Team Canada Inc office will be a key point of access for Canadian firms seeking trade and investment information, and will complement the work of Canada Business Service Centres located across the country. It will also support consultations between government and the private sector.

"On behalf of my Team Canada partners, I am pleased to inaugurate this new facility as the headquarters for Team Canada Inc," said Minister Marchi. "This secretariat will ensure that key domestic players involved in trade and investment promotion are working together to provide the direction and support necessary for Canadian firms to succeed internationally."

In October 1997, Minister Marchi announced Team Canada Inc as a co-operative federal, provincial and private sector network providing the business community with a single point of access to a wide range of international business development programs, information and services.

The opening of the headquarters coincides with the first meeting of the Team Canada Inc Advisory Board. The Board brings together prominent members of the Canadian business, labour and cultural communities, who will provide advice to the government regarding trade policy and market access questions. They will guide the evolution and implementation of international business development programs and services for Canadian exporters.

To better serve Canadian companies interested in doing business abroad, Team Canada Inc has also introduced "Export information...at your fingertips," a toll-free telephone number (1-888-811-1119). This number connects callers to Team Canada Inc service providers across the country. Operators are available to

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answer questions weekdays from 8:30 to 17:00, and a "fax-back" system operates 24 hours a day.

These initiatives under Team Canada Inc are further steps toward fulfilling the Government's commitment to build on the success of the Team Canada partnership and strengthen the competitiveness of Canadian business in the global marketplace.

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News Release

February 18, 1998

No. 31

\$87 MILLION IN SOFTWOOD FEES TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO FOUR PROVINCES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced that the Federal government will distribute \$87 million in export fees collected under the softwood lumber agreement to the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, and Alberta. Mr. Marchi made this announcement to provincial and industry members during the National Softwood Lumber Advisory Committee meeting on February 17.

"Distributing this money honours the commitment we made to the provinces in 1996 when we signed the softwood lumber agreement," said Minister Marchi.

Under the Canada-U.S. Agreement on Softwood Lumber, export fees are levied on Canadian companies exporting softwood lumber above their fee-free allocations. The fees distributed to the four provinces today represent fees collected during the first year of the agreement. Approximately \$9.8 million dollars will be returned to Ontario; \$35.5 million to Quebec; \$36.3 million to British Columbia; and \$5.4 million to Alberta.

"We continue to work closely with the provinces and industry associations on the ongoing implementation of the softwood lumber agreement. This is an excellent example of the constructive co-operation that exists between the provinces and the federal government," said the Minister.

The Canada-U.S. Agreement on Softwood Lumber provides Canadian companies with secure access to the U.S. market at a minimal cost. The value of softwood lumber exports to the U.S. covered under the agreement have increased from \$7 billion in 1995 to 8.6 billion in 1996, to 9.4 billion between January and November 1997.

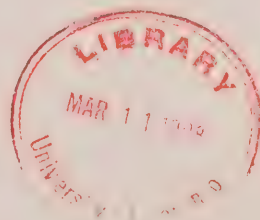
- 30 -

A Backgrounder is attached.



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Backgrounder

Softwood Lumber Agreement

Softwood lumber has been an area of trade friction between Canada and the United States for over 15 years. After lengthy negotiations, Canada and the United States finalized the Agreement on Softwood Lumber in April 1996.

Benefits

The Agreement provides Canadian exporters with a guarantee against U.S. trade actions for five years. It includes an unprecedented U.S. government commitment to dismiss any new petitions for trade action.

The Agreement has enabled Canada's lumber industry to avoid substantial tariffs, which the U.S. government had been threatening to impose on Canadian exports of softwood lumber. Those tariffs would have been paid directly to the U.S. government rather than being retained in Canada.

Export Fees

In return for the U.S. guarantee against trade actions, Canada agreed that softwood lumber exports to the United States originating from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, and Alberta would be charged an export fee when these lumber shipments exceeded specific levels. The agreement states that exports exceeding 14.7 billion board feet a year will be subject to a US\$50 per thousand board feet border fee for the first 650 million board feet; and that a US\$100 per thousand board feet would be charged for quantities greater than 650 million board feet.

In 1996-1997, export fees applied to softwood lumber products accounted for just over 1 billion board feet, or 6.3 percent of the total 15.8 billion board feet exported to the U.S. under the agreement.

The revenue collected by the Government of Canada through this export fee is then contributed to the provincial governments of the provinces from which the fees were collected after adjustments for certain expenses.

Lumber originating from the Maritime provinces, Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Territories are exempt from the Agreement. A separate Agreement was reached between Canada and the United States on shipments from the Maritime provinces and Newfoundland, which preserves their traditional exemption from U.S. trade cases.

Export Fees during the First Year

Initial figures for the first year of the Agreement (April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997) indicate that \$87 million in collected fees will be distributed to the provinces approximately as follows: \$9.8 million to Ontario; \$35.5 million to Quebec; \$36.3 million to B.C.; and \$5.4 million to Alberta.

Before the fees can be distributed, the federal government and provinces must sign contribution agreements. These fees cannot be transferred by the provinces to individuals or to firms in the softwood lumber industry.

News Release

February 18, 1998

No. 32

APPOINTMENT TO IDRC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Dr. Jean-Guy Paquet to the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Dr. Paquet is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Optics Institute, located in Ste-Foy, Quebec. Previously, he was President of Laurentian Life (1988-1994), and Rector (1977-1987) and Vice-Rector, Research (1972-1977) at Université Laval. He holds a PhD in electrical engineering from Université Laval and a Master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the École nationale supérieure de l'aéronautique in Paris.

Throughout his career, Dr. Paquet has been on the board of directors of many organizations in the fields of science and higher education, including the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. He is also director of several Canadian companies.

Dr. Paquet has been awarded a number of honorary titles. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada, an Officer of the Ordre national du Québec, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and an Honorary Member of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He holds honorary doctorates from McGill University (Montreal), York University (Toronto), and the Technical University of Nova Scotia (Halifax).

IDRC is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing-country scientists and communities find solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems through research. By bringing together people, institutions, and ideas, IDRC seeks to ensure that the benefits of this research will be shared equitably among all its partners in both the Northern and the Southern hemispheres.



IDRC is directed by a 21-member Board of Governors comprising 11 Canadian members and 10 non-Canadian members.

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News Release

February 18, 1998

No. 33

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointments of Mr. Robert Fung, Dr. Marsha Hanen and Mr. Marcel Thibault to the Board of Directors of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC). Also, Chairman Michael Phelps and Mr. Louis Salley have been reappointed to the Board.

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, created in 1984 by an Act of Parliament, is a private non-profit organization funded by the federal and provincial governments, with additional financial support from the private sector. The APFC's mission is to help Canadians better understand and be more successful in this important region.

The APFC and its subsidiaries, the GLOBE Foundation and the Canadian Education Centre Network, operate a number of programs to further Canada's economic interests in the region. The APFC also houses the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Study Centre, which promotes collaborative research and disseminates information and analysis on APEC, as well as on priority issues for Canada's involvement in this forum.

The APFC was a major player in Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (1997). This included organizing the national youth conference *Asia Connects/Cherchons l'Asie*, the Asia Pacific media conference, and business programs in conjunction with APEC ministerial meetings.

- 30 -

Biographical notes are attached.

For further information on the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, please visit their Internet site at www.apfc.ca



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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Robert Fung is Vice-Chairman of Gordon Capital Corporation in Toronto. Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in 1938, Mr. Fung is a graduate of the University of Toronto. He has worked for Wood Gundy Limited and was Vice-President and Director for Dominion Securities Limited and President of Starline Aviation Limited. Mr. Fung is on the Boards of the Mount Sinai Hospital and the Simon Lunenfelk Research Institute in Toronto.

Marsha Hanen is President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg. Born in Calgary, Alberta, Dr. Hanen studied at the University of Toronto, Boston University, and the University of Pennsylvania. She received her PhD in Philosophy from Brandeis University in 1970. Dr. Hanen has worked at the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, Brandeis University, the University of Calgary, and Dalhousie University.

Marcel Thibault is Vice-President of Le Groupe Consoltex Inc. and President of the sector for high performance textiles manufacturers, which has over 560 employees. He has worked in the textile industry for 35 years of which 29 have been with Consoltex. He obtained a diploma from the École des textiles de Saint-Hyacinthe.

Michael Phelps is Chairman and CEO of Vancouver-based Westcoast Energy Inc. He holds a law degree from the University of Manitoba, a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics, and an honorary doctorate in Law from the University of Winnipeg. He has worked as Crown Attorney for the Province of Manitoba, was a partner with the Winnipeg law firm Christie Degraives, served as Special Advisor to the Federal Minister of Justice and Executive Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and lectured at Carleton University's Law Department.

Louis Salley is a partner in the Vancouver law firm Salley Bowes Harwardt. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and law degree from the University of Alberta, and studied economics at Harvard Law School and the University of California (Berkeley). Mr. Salley has held positions with the federal and British Columbia governments, as well as with law firms in Alberta and British Columbia. He is a member of the Law Societies of Alberta and British Columbia, the Canadian Bar Association, and the International Bar Association.

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News Release

February 19, 1998

No. 34

AXWORTHY MEETS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS NGOs

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today met with representatives of Canadian human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss with them Canada's approach at the upcoming session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Geneva, March 16 to April 24, 1998.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has held these comprehensive consultations annually since 1988. They are a prime example of the invaluable contributions that NGOs are making to Canadian foreign policy," said Mr. Axworthy. "They ensure that each year we are exposed to different perspectives on familiar events and trends, perspectives that challenge us to either prove the worth of our established policies, or to change them."

The Minister further stated that in keeping with its broader human rights policy, Canada is open to exploring innovative ways of approaching problems at the CHR, including approaches tailored to each particular situation.

"Our support for innovative solutions at the CHR is mirrored by our creative approach to bilateral human rights relationships. Over the last year, Canada has pursued a spectrum of individual country strategies, predicated, in large part, on the other country's willingness to engage us constructively," said Mr. Axworthy.

In commenting on Canada's bilateral dialogue with China, Mr. Axworthy confirmed that Canada and China would co-sponsor a symposium on human rights and legal issues, with the active participation of several other Asia-Pacific countries, in early March 1998, in British Columbia. This symposium, originally announced by Prime Minister Chrétien last November, marks the first time that China will host a multi-lateral human rights meeting.



Minister Axworthy also announced three Canadian initiatives to mark this year's worldwide celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- Canada will co-sponsor an NGO conference, in June 1998, to review what progress has been made in implementing the Declaration and Program of Action that resulted from the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993;
- At the June conference, Canada will launch one of its main contributions to the 50th anniversary celebrations: a global human rights report, based on UN sources, to be used as a working tool and reference guide for the international human rights community;
- Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, will make an official visit to Canada in late November 1998 to meet with Canadian human rights NGOs and agencies, and to participate in Canadian events marking the anniversary.

The complete text of Minister Axworthy's statement has been released separately.

- 30 -

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NETUS RELEASE

February 19, 1998

No. 35

CANADA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE PERFORMANCE IN 1997 SHOWS RECORD LEVEL FOR EXPORTS

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade today issued the following statement:

Statistics Canada today released figures on Canada's 1997 trade performance which show continued vigorous growth of Canadian exports, to a record level of \$301 billion. A strong inflation-adjusted growth performance of 9 percent compared favourably with growth of 5.8 percent in 1996. Export expansion in December was the strongest monthly export growth since January 1997. This record level of exports by Canadian firms contributed to additional jobs for Canadians and to financing of a higher level of imports by consumers and firms.

Imports also grew to reach a record level of \$278.2 billion – an inflation-adjusted growth of 18.7 percent. Strong business confidence and higher income prospects, as well as savings-financed consumer spending, have resulted in increased import demand by Canadian firms and consumers. Many of these imports, such as machinery and equipment, will promote further expansion of the Canadian economy.

Canada's trade surplus in 1997 was a healthy \$23.1 billion, lower than the banner years of 1995 and 1996 but much larger than in the 1980s and early 1990s.

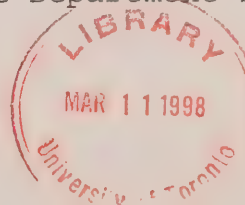
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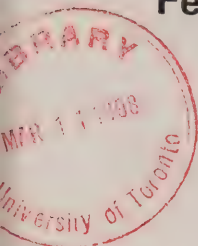


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News Release

February 19, 1998

No. 36



FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Under the Chairmanship of the Minister for International Trade, Sergio Marchi, federal and provincial ministers responsible for international trade met in Ottawa on February 19, 1998, to address issues of common interest in international trade, investment, and business development with a view to job creation and economic growth.

Affirming their commitment to obtaining secure and enhanced access for Canadian goods and services providers abroad, Ministers agreed to intensify their joint efforts in pursuing Canadian priorities in current and forthcoming negotiations in the World Trade Organization, particularly in respect of the agriculture and agri-food sector, and, regionally, in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

Ministers reviewed in detail issues and recent developments concerning the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment. Noting that negotiations will not conclude this April and will continue for a significant period of time, they agreed on the desirability of public consultations to defend key interests in such areas as labour, the environment, health and other social services, natural resources, culture, expropriation, and extraterritoriality.

Ministers shared their experience in international business development, including through Team Canada missions, and discussed how best to build on their success to date. They agreed that an expanded "Team Canada Inc" network, including simplified access to exporter services and improved co-ordination of trade missions, is one means to ensure that the federal-provincial-territorial partnership better contributes to economic growth throughout the country. They agreed to establish a federal-provincial-territorial task force to examine and report within



provincial-territorial task force to examine and report within six months on how better to co-ordinate federal, provincial, and territorial initiatives on trade and investment promotion, as well as trade missions.

Ministers also agreed that foreign investment into Canada is important to job creation and economic growth, and that Canada offers a highly competitive and attractive environment. They agreed to strengthen their co-operation in investment attraction to promote the country aggressively in key markets and sectors, and in continuing to improve the investment climate at home.

Ministers explored ways and means to improve federal-provincial-territorial co-operation on trade policy and international business development matters, and agreed that officials should continue their work in this regard. They agreed that early and ongoing political engagement by governments is essential. To this end, they agreed to meet again within a year and, thereafter, on a regular basis and as needed.

Participants expressed their thanks to Minister Marchi for having taken the initiative to convene this meeting, as had been suggested by Premiers at their last annual conference.

- 30 -

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News Release

February 20, 1998

No. 37

MINISTER MARCHI WELCOMES ELECTION OF CANADIAN AS CHAIR OF THE WTO GENERAL COUNCIL

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the election of John Weekes, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, as Chair of the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"Ambassador Weekes' experience in bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade negotiations will provide invaluable guidance to WTO members as they face the challenges ahead," said Minister Marchi. "The Ambassador's election reflects Canada's continued leadership in the multilateral trading system."

Canada was both an original signatory to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 50 years ago and an original member of the WTO, which celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the multilateral trading system on May 20, 1998. The WTO will hold a celebration immediately after its Ministerial Conference in Geneva, May 18 to 19.

The objective of the WTO is to secure and enhance market access in goods, services, and intellectual property through predictable, transparent, and enforceable trade rules. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the WTO was established by the Marrakesh Declaration in 1994 and came into force in 1995. The WTO replaced the GATT, which was established in Geneva in 1948. Ambassador Weekes was Chair of the GATT Council (predecessor to the WTO General Council) in 1989.

- 30 -

Biographical Notes are attached.



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Biographical Notes

JOHN M. WEEKES Permanent Representative of Canada

In September 1995, Ambassador Weekes became the Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva and the World Trade Organization (WTO). He is the Chairman of the newly created WTO Committee on Regional Trade Agreements, and also chairs the Working Party on the Accession of Saudi Arabia to the WTO.

From 1993 to 1995, Mr. Weekes was Senior Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for managing Canada's relations with the United States and Co-ordinator for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He was Canada's Chief Negotiator for the North American Free Trade Negotiations from 1991 to 1994. During this period, Mr. Weekes was also the Assistant Deputy Minister for Trade Policy.

Previously, Mr. Weekes was Ambassador to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva, and was elected Chairman of the GATT Council for the year 1988-89 and, subsequently, as Chairman of the GATT Contracting Parties for 1989-90. Mr. Weekes also served as Chairman of the Uruguay Round Negotiating Group dealing with the reform of various articles of the GATT.

Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to GATT, Mr. Weekes served in trade policy positions in Ottawa from 1979-87, including as Director General for Trade Policy. From 1973 to 1979, Mr. Weekes was a member of Canada's delegation to the Tokyo Round of GATT negotiations.

Earlier, Mr. Weekes was posted to the Canadian Embassy in Belgrade and in 1974 was a member of the Canadian Delegation to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Mr. Weekes was born in Toronto in 1943. He received an Honours BA in Political Science and Economics from the University of Toronto in 1966 and the same year joined the Department of External Affairs. He is married to Arlene Weekes (Harris) and they have two children.

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February 26, 1998

No. 38

AXWORTHY AND KILGOUR TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ACTION GROUP MEETING IN LONDON

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will attend the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting on March 2 and 3, 1998, in London. Minister Axworthy will also address the Canada Club on the evening of March 2 on the theme of "soft power" and the new diplomacy.

This will be the first CMAG meeting following last October's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Edinburgh, and will provide the opportunity for CMAG members to review the recent developments in The Gambia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. Canada hopes to discuss the workplan for assessing Nigeria's democratic progress as set out in the Edinburgh Communiqué.

"Nigeria must satisfactorily complete a credible program for the restoration of democracy and civilian government," said Mr. Axworthy. "This includes the release of political prisoners, the opening of the political process to all, and a return to the rule of law."

"CMAG will also discuss the turbulent situation in Sierra Leone and examine the steps now being taken to return elected President Kabbah," said Secretary of State Kilgour. Canada provided \$600,000 in assistance to the International Committee of the Red Cross to support its efforts in alleviating the disastrous humanitarian situation.

CMAG was created in 1995 with a mandate to recommend collective Commonwealth responses to serious or persistent violations of the principles contained in the Commonwealth's Harare Declaration on human rights and democracy. CMAG comprises the eight member countries of Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Ghana, Malaysia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe. Barbados and Botswana replace Jamaica and South Africa as members.

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News Release

February 27, 1998

No. 39

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the appointment of Robert A. Fung to the Board of Directors of the Export Development Corporation (EDC), and the reappointments of Dorothy E. Byrne, Huguette Labelle, and James A. Pattillo to the EDC's 15-member Board.

As Canada's official export credit agency, EDC is a unique financial institution that strengthens the global competitiveness of Canadian exporters and investors in more than 200 countries by offering some of the most sophisticated trade finance skills available in Canada today. In 1997, EDC's business volume was \$28.6 billion – exceeding 1996's record level of \$22 billion.

The appointments are effective immediately.

- 30 -

Biographical notes are attached.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Robert A. Fung brings to the Board years of expertise in corporate finance and investment banking. Mr. Fung is a senior partner of Capital West Partners, a group of senior investment bankers providing corporate and financial advice and strategy in the areas of mergers acquisition and capital markets to high net-worth entrepreneurs and corporations. Prior to his present position, Mr. Fung was Vice-Chairman at Gordon Capital Corporation of Toronto, and also held positions with RF Aviation Ltd., Dominion Securities Ltd., and Wood Gundy. He is also a member of a number of boards of directors for private and charitable organizations, as well as the Minister's Team Canada Inc Advisory Board.

Dorothy E. Byrne is Vice-President of Law and Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Secretary at BC TELECOM Inc. and BC TEL. She first joined BC TEL in 1971 and then left to attend law school at the University of British Columbia in 1974. She was called to the British Columbia bar in 1978, and returned to BC TEL in 1979. Ms. Byrne also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton University and a Master of Science in Management degree from Stanford University.

Huguette Labelle is President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Previously, Ms. Labelle was Deputy Minister of Transport, and Chairman of the Public Service Commission. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree from the University of Ottawa, and has received honorary doctorates in Law from Brock University, the University of Saskatchewan, Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, York University, the University of Windsor, and the University of Manitoba. In 1990, she was invested as an officer of the Order of Canada.

James A. Pattillo is President and Chief Executive Officer of XL Foods Ltd., a strategically integrated food production company, and Pattillo Corporation and Capital Management, a management and holding company. Mr. Pattillo holds an Honours Business Degree from the University of Western Ontario, and has held positions at Dominion Securities Ltd. and Wood Gundy.

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News Release

February 27, 1998

No. 40

CANADA AND CHINA TO CO-HOST HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the agenda for the Canada-China Symposium on Legal Questions Related to Human Rights in a Civil Society taking place in Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, on March 2 and 3, 1998. Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan will host a dinner for delegates to the symposium on Sunday evening, March 1.

"This is an important part of the process that we formally set in motion last April when we announced a package of bilateral human rights initiatives with China," said Mr. Axworthy. "The participation of several other Asian countries as observers signals an encouraging new openness to the discussion of human rights in the region."

The agenda of the meeting will include discussions on the inter-relationship between economic, social, and cultural rights and civil and political rights; limitations on freedom of opinion and expression; the role of the judiciary in promoting and protecting human rights; and, the role of non-governmental organizations in society and policy development.

"I also want to welcome China's recent signing of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights," said Minister Axworthy. "This, along with China's role in this symposium, is an important step toward China becoming a more active multilateral partner on human rights. We eagerly look forward to seeing China ratify this important Covenant."

Canada and China will jointly sponsor this symposium, marking the first time that China has hosted a multilateral human rights meeting. Government representatives from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand will participate as observers.



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Representatives from national human rights institutions will also take part in a session chaired by Michelle Falardeau-Ramsay, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Prime Minister Chrétien first announced this symposium during the Canadian visit of Chinese President Jiang Zemin last November.

-30-

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

March 3, 1998

No. 41

SECRETARY OF STATE ALBRIGHT TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State of the United States, will visit Ottawa from March 9 to 10, 1998.

The visit will focus on developments that have taken place in Canada-U.S. relations since the visit of Prime Minister Chrétien to Washington in April 1997. During the visit, the Secretary of State and Minister Axworthy will discuss bilateral issues such as Pacific salmon, environmental co-operation, and Canada-U.S. border collaboration. Secretary of State Albright's visit will also provide an important opportunity for both countries to exchange views on a broad range of international topics including the United Nations, the Middle East, Nigeria, Haiti, and the Santiago Summit to be held in April 1998.

"Canada and the United States enjoy close political co-operation in both the bilateral and multilateral arenas," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our bilateral relationship is the largest, healthiest, and most prosperous in the world."

Secretary of State Albright's visit is the first official visit of a U.S. Secretary of State in a decade. While in Ottawa, Secretary of State Albright will also meet with Prime Minister Chrétien and other Cabinet ministers, and with representatives from academia, the media, and business.

- 30 -



For further information, media representatives may contact:

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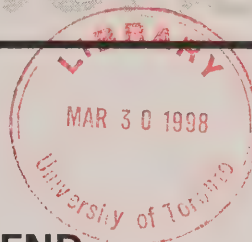
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
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March 3, 1998

No. 42



AXWORTHY TO ATTEND ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES WASHINGTON CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will attend the first Organization of American States (OAS) Washington Conference of the Americas, to be held March 5 to 6, 1998. He will join a select group of the Western Hemisphere's decision makers, academics and institutions, to exchange views on the political, social and economic development of the region.

Minister Axworthy will deliver the closing keynote address at the conference, and will meet with Dr. César Gaviria, OAS Secretary-General, Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Sir George Alleyne, Executive Director of the Pan American Health Organization. Mr. Axworthy will also meet with U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D VT).

As well, the Minister will moderate a symposium on hemispheric issues with a group of the region's Nobel laureates that includes Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez, former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, and Canadian chemist Dr. John Polanyi.

"This conference is an excellent opportunity to assess developments taking place in the hemisphere as we set the stage for the Summit of the Americas in Santiago in April," said Mr. Axworthy. "The Summit process is vital in guiding the hemisphere's economic and social evolution, and benefits greatly from the participation of key players such as the OAS."

"Canada welcomed the support of the many OAS nations that signed the international convention banning anti-personnel mines," added the Minister. "Canada also strongly supports the Central American states' declaration, announced at the December 1997 landmines conference in Ottawa, to make the region a landmine-free zone by the year 2000."

The conference agenda will closely mirror the key issues to be discussed at the Summit in April: liberalized trade in the



Americas; education; human rights and democracy; and the elimination of poverty and discrimination.

Major institutions and organizations involved in the hemisphere's social, political, and trade agenda will be represented at the conference, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; OAS bodies dealing with trade, social development, and the environment; the World Bank; and major academic institutions and think tanks focussed on inter-American issues.

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The media program for the conference is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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**Visit of The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada,
to the Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.**

MEDIA PROGRAM

Thursday, March 5

0800-
0900 Press Accreditation, OAS Main Building
17th and Constitution, N.W.

0900-
1600 Conference of the Americas

1640 Press Assembles near the Fountain in the Atrium of the
OAS Main Building

1705 Arrival of Minister Axworthy at the OAS

Photo Opportunity

Greeted by Ana O'Brien, OAS Chief of Protocol

Press is escorted to the Hall of the Americas (Second Floor) to take up positions for the "The Encounter with the Nobel Laureates of the Americas."

TV Pool Coverage

A space will be set aside for **one** Canadian television crew immediately in front of Minister Axworthy. Please co-ordinate in advance.

Open Coverage

1800 "The Encounter with the Nobel Laureates of the Americas"
Moderated by The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
Hall of the Americas
OAS Main Building (Second Floor)

2030 "The Encounter with the Nobel Laureates of the Americas" concludes

Friday, March 6

0800-

1630 Conference of the Americas continues

1430 Press assemblies near the Fountain in the Atrium of the OAS Main Building, 17th and Constitution, N.W.

1445 Minister Axworthy arrives at the OAS Main Building

Greeted by Ms. Ana O'Brien
OAS Chief of Protocol**Photo Opportunity**

Press will be escorted into the Hall outside the office of OAS Secretary-General Gaviria, to hold. They will enter the office for a photo opportunity with Secretary-General Gaviria and Minister Axworthy, and then be escorted out.

1515 Meeting with Dr. César Gaviria, OAS Secretary-General
Office of the Secretary-General
OAS Main Building (Second Floor)

TV Pool Coverage

Following the photo opportunity in the office, press will be escorted into the Hall of the Americas to prepare for their coverage of the concluding keynote address by Minister Axworthy. Again, a spot on the riser immediately facing Minister Axworthy will be reserved for one Canadian crew. Please co-ordinate in advance.

Open Coverage

1600 Keynote address to the first OAS Washington Conference
of the Americas
Hall of the Americas
OAS Main Building (Second Floor)

1645 Media Availability (Salon San Martin)

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News Release

March 4, 1998

No. 43

MINISTER MARCHI LAUNCHES NEW EXPORTERS' MISSION TO U.S. BORDER MARKETS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today launched a two-day New Exporters to Border States (NEBS) mission to Buffalo, New York. The Minister made the announcement at a breakfast meeting in Toronto for over 85 businessmen and businesswomen from across Canada taking part in the export information program.

"For most Canadian exporters, the border markets are not only accessible, they are lucrative," said Mr. Marchi. "Buffalo is the gateway to huge markets in upstate New York, adjacent northern tier states, and the many regional markets in the United States. The NEBS export training missions are an effective way to introduce Canadian companies to international business."

"We are calling this mission "Super NEBS" to celebrate the 15th anniversary of this educational program," said the Minister. "NEBS demonstrates the government's commitment to support and encourage small and medium-sized Canadian companies to export to the United States."

The NEBS program was initiated in 1983 by the Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo, in partnership with the province of Ontario. The program has since been established in Canadian trade offices across the United States, and has involved over 8500 Canadian companies, of which an average of 55 percent have entered the U.S. market within 18 months of the training sessions.

For the first time, a student component has been included in the NEBS mission, to contribute market research. Four business students from the University of Saskatchewan, Dalhousie University, the University of New Brunswick, and Memorial University were selected to join the sessions. Each student will be partnered with one of the NEBS participants, who will act as a "mentor" during the trade mission.



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This Super NEBS is co-sponsored by the Ontario International Trade Corporation, Air Canada, Canadian Airlines, Toronto-Dominion Bank, the Business Development Bank of Canada, EDC (Export Development Corporation), and Buffalo-based U.S. firms.

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A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

THE NEW EXPORTERS TO BORDER STATES PROGRAM

What NEBS Is

The New Exporters to Border States (NEBS) program is an export education tool that targets Canadian companies that are not yet exporting to the United States. NEBS introduces the essentials of exporting, including practical trade information, and provides first-hand exposure to markets in U.S. border states.

A recent expansion to the program, NEBS Plus, serves Canadian companies that are currently exporting to U.S. border states. NEBS Plus focusses on expanding the markets of successful exporters to other regions of the United States.

In this global economy, Canadian companies are encouraged to consider the border states as their first foreign market, indeed, as an initial entry to the many regional markets in the United States. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provides vast trade opportunities, and the United States serves as an ideal springboard to emerging markets worldwide.

How the Program Works

NEBS missions vary depending on the destination and interest of the participants. Missions last from one to three days, and include:

- Pre-mission briefing on export services and programs available from the federal and provincial governments;
- Travel to a Canadian post in the United States;
- Briefing on border procedures;
- Presentations by U.S. manufacturers' representatives, sales agents, distributors or buyers;
- Tours of relevant trade shows;
- Visits to local wholesalers or retailers;
- Briefings on local U.S. markets;
- Meetings with Canadian Consulate trade officers and potential agents or distributors;
- Distribution of export information guides and kits.

Program Costs

A non-refundable participation fee of US\$75 applies to each company representative on the mission, payable by cheque to the Canadian Consulate hosting the mission.

The government may cover up to two nights hotel accommodation, and/or trade show entrance fees. Airfare, transportation, and personal expenses are the responsibility of the participant.

Who Qualifies

NEBS: Canadian companies incorporated and operating in Canada that have an interest in, but are not yet exporting to the United States on a regular basis, are eligible for NEBS programs.

NEBS Plus: Canadian companies with sales of less than \$2.3 million, currently exporting to the United States, are eligible to participate in a NEBS Plus mission to other regions of the United States.

How Companies Can Apply

Companies interested in applying for the NEBS and NEBS Plus programs should contact their nearest International Trade Centre (ITC) listed on our Web site.

For more information please visit our Web site at:

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/GEO/USA/nebcal-e.htm>

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/français/GEO/USA/nebcal-f.htm>

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News Release

March 5, 1998

No. 44

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS VIOLENCE IN KOSOVO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the violent incidents that recently took place in the Kosovo region of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). Canada understands the FRY's need to combat terrorism, but denounces the resort to violence by all parties in Kosovo. It is clear that the activities of the Serbian security forces continue to go well beyond acceptable standards.

"Confidence-building measures from both the Belgrade authorities and the Kosovar Albanian leadership would restore calm and lead toward a process of good faith dialogue," said Mr. Axworthy.

The Yugoslav Ambassador to Canada was called in to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on March 3. He was reminded that a peaceful resolution to the Kosovo issue and progress on human rights in general will dictate the pace and scope of bilateral relations with Canada. The Canadian Ambassador in Belgrade is also conveying Canada's concerns to Yugoslav authorities.

"Canada urges President Milosevic to take steps to implement the Education Agreement signed with Kosovar leader Ibrahim Rugova, and calls upon Mr. Rugova to denounce terrorism and the use of force in the Kosovar struggle for greater autonomy," said Mr. Axworthy. "The ultimate responsibility for resolving this issue peacefully rests with the authorities in Belgrade. However, if they fail to pursue a peaceful course, the FRY leadership would condemn its people to further international isolation."

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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News Release

March 5, 1998

No. 45

**NATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM
OF CANADA'S HEADS OF MISSION IN ASIA ANNOUNCED**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi, and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced that 25 Heads of Mission in Asia will return to Canada for a series of meetings, and to conduct a public outreach program in cities across Canada from March 8 to 17, 1998.

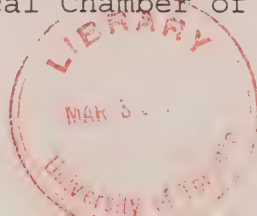
Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consuls General from Asia will participate in events involving a cross-section of Canadian business, non-governmental and academic groups, as well as provincial government representatives. The goal of the outreach program is to share information about the new realities in Asia.

"Developments in Asia touch the lives of Canadians more today than ever before," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our Heads of Mission in Asia are well positioned to gather and assess information about the region and the opportunities that exist there. This outreach effort gives Canadians a chance to tell the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade how they perceive our policies, and how we can improve our services, thereby giving new meaning to the government's commitment to consult Canadians."

The Canadian diplomats will begin with a series of activities in Vancouver, then will travel to Toronto (March 10 to 11), Montréal (March 11 to 12), and will hold meetings in Ottawa (March 12 to 15). Teams will then proceed to Calgary, Winnipeg, Halifax and Québec City for separate programs on March 16. Meetings have also been arranged in Victoria, Edmonton, Regina and Sherbrooke. Video-conferencing will be used for selected outreach purposes.

"This domestic Team Canada initiative demonstrates that the federal government remains committed to promoting trade opportunities in Asia-Pacific," said Mr. Marchi. "Heads of Mission in Asia will speak to Canadian firms about the current business climate and potential markets, and will share information about federal government initiatives that facilitate doing business with this region."

A series of business breakfasts on risk management in Asia has been organized for Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal by EDC (Export Development Corporation). The local Chamber of Commerce will also host



a similar event in Winnipeg. Local Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce will host "Night of the Ambassadors" events in Vancouver, Toronto, Montréal, Calgary and Ottawa, giving companies direct access to the Canadian diplomats to discuss opportunities and strategies in their countries of accreditation.

"Profound changes are under way in Asia today, which are having a growing impact on Canada's economic, social and environmental future, said Mr. Chan. This timely initiative enables us to work closely with our partners to ensure that Canada maintains an effective presence in Asia. I am pleased to launch this cross-country initiative in Vancouver tomorrow, and I look forward to a full agenda of activities over the coming days."

This program has been organized through partnerships among various federal government departments including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), EDC and International Trade Centres located in each region. As well, numerous local organizations are providing sponsorship and resource support.

Funding for this initiative has been provided for in the February 1999 budget and is therefore built into the existing financial framework.

- 30 -

A list of participating Heads of Mission in Asia is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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(613) 995-1851

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Office of the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)
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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Heads of Mission Meeting and Outreach Program Participants

North Asia

Ambassador Howard Balloch
Beijing, People's Republic of
China
(Vancouver program only)

Minister Guy Saint-Jacques
Beijing, People's Republic of
China
(Toronto, Montréal, Ottawa,
Québec City, Regina)

Consul General Edward Lipman
Shanghai, People's Republic of
China

Consul Mary Boyd
Chongqing, People's Republic
of China (currently in
Guangzhou, People's Republic
of China)

Consul General Paul Lau
Guangzhou, People's Republic
of China (currently in Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia)

Consul General Colin Russel
Hong Kong, People's Republic
of China

Acting Director Stewart Beck
Taipei, Taiwan

Ambassador Len Edwards
Tokyo, Japan

Consul General Peter Campbell
Osaka, Japan

Ambassador Michel Perrault
Seoul, Korea

Southeast Asia

Ambassador Gordon Longmuir
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**High Commissioner Gardiner J.
Wilson**
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Ambassador Marius Grinius
Hanoi, Vietnam

Ambassador Gary J. Smith
Jakarta, Indonesia

High Commissioner André Simard
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Ambassador John Treleaven
Manila, Philippines

High Commissioner Barry Carin
Singapore

Ambassador Bernard Giroux
Bangkok, Thailand

Consul General Sarah Hradecky
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

South Asia

High Commissioner Peter Walker
New Delhi, India

**High Commissioner Marie-Andrée
Beauchemin**
Islamabad, Pakistan

**High Commissioner Konrad
Sigurdson**
Colombo, Sri Lanka

**High Commissioner Nicholas
Etheridge**
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Oceania

**High Commissioner Valérie
Raymond**
Wellington, New Zealand

**High Commissioner Brian
Schumacher**
Canberra, Australia

Consul General Alan Virtue
Sydney, Australia

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News Release

March 6, 1998

No. 46

MARCHI ANNOUNCES NEW YOUTH INITIATIVE

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced a new youth international internship project valued at \$225 000 for the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University in Toronto.

The initiative will provide 15 young Canadians from across the country with training and experience in the hemisphere's main political forum, the Organization of American States (OAS), in Washington, D.C.

"Canada views Latin America as a priority for further economic, political and social links," said Mr. Marchi. "Through this project we can offer young Canadians the opportunity to become familiar with issues of the Americas. This initiative is particularly important as Canada prepares to host for the first time the General Assembly of the OAS in the year 2000."

The Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean is an interdisciplinary research unit that seeks to build links between Canada and these regions. Minister Marchi made the announcement at the International Graduate Business Conference at York University.

Prospective candidates may obtain more information regarding eligibility criteria by calling 1-800-559-2888 or by visiting the Department's Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under "Canadian Youth."

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -



For further information, media representatives may contact:

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(613) 992-7332

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News Release

March 9, 1998

No. 47

CANADA APPOINTS NEW CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, David Anderson, today announced the appointment of Canada's Chief Negotiator for the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Professor Donald M. McRae. Professor McRae will be responsible for the overall direction and co-ordination of negotiations with the Government of the United States regarding Pacific salmon.

Canada's immediate priority will be to achieve interim fishing arrangements before the next fishing season. Professor McRae will negotiate a framework for long-term implementation of the principles of Article III of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and oversee a review of the Pacific Salmon Commission. He will be supported by a team of senior representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, along with a group of expert advisors.

"As Chief Negotiator, Professor McRae's expertise in the field of international law and in dispute settlement will assist us in reaching a negotiated solution," said Minister Axworthy.

"Although this has been a long-standing dispute, we firmly believe that negotiations are the best avenue to settle this issue and conserve the salmon, which represent a way of life for many people on the West Coast."

"The conservation of Pacific salmon is Canada's number one priority in this dispute. To conserve salmon and ensure a sustainable fishery for Canadian fishers, Canada and the United States must agree on interim fishing arrangements before the start of the 1998 fishing season," said Minister Anderson. "Once this is accomplished, we need long-term fishing arrangements based on the principles of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Professor McRae has the experience needed to ensure that these goals are achieved. I have written to Premier Glen Clark inviting him to participate in this process."



Bilateral negotiations were rejuvenated by a joint report of the Special Representatives for Pacific Salmon, Dr. David Strangway of Canada and William Ruckelshaus of the United States. Their report was released January 12, 1998.

Currently Chair of Business and Trade Law at the University of Ottawa, Professor McRae was formerly Professor and Associate Dean of Law at the University of British Columbia. He specializes in the field of international law, and has been Advisor and Counsel for Canada in international fishery and boundary arbitrations. Professor McRae has sat on a number of dispute settlement panels under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

- 30 -

A biographical note is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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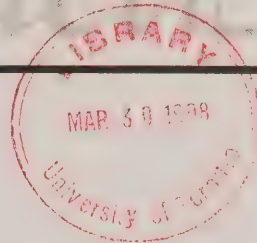
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Donald M. McRae, LLB (Otago), LLM (Otago), Dipl. Int. Law (Cant.), of the Bars of New Zealand and Ontario, holds the Hyman Soloway Chair in Business and Trade Law and is the former Dean of the Common Law Section, University of Ottawa. He was formerly Professor and Associate Dean at the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia. He specializes in international law and has been Advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Counsel for Canada in several international fishery and boundary arbitrations. He was Chair of the first dispute settlement panel set up under Chapter 18 of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and has sat on subsequent panels under Chapters 18 and 19 of the FTA. He was also Chair of the first dispute settlement panel set up under the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement. He is currently on the roster of panelists under Chapter 19 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and on the Indicative List of Panelists of the World Trade Organization. His publications are principally in the field of international law, and he is Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Yearbook of International Law*. Professor McRae teaches contracts, international law and international trade law.

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News Release

March 9, 1998



No. 48

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE VIOLENCE IN KOSOVO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that due to recent events in Kosovo, and Yugoslav President Milosevic's unwillingness to pursue a peaceful path there, Canada had no choice but to pursue a number of measures with the hope of prompting the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) to take steps to resolve the Kosovo issue peacefully.

These measures include:

- to instruct EDC (Export Development Corporation of Canada) to suspend consideration of export credits for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until further notice;
- to suspend discussions concerning charter landing rights in Canada with Yugoslav Airlines; and
- to put on hold discussions on other bilateral agreements until further notice.

"The continuing repression and violence in Kosovo by Serbian security forces intensified the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's international isolation and damaged its bilateral relations with Canada," said Minister Axworthy.

Canada will continue and enhance a number of measures that are in place with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Included in these measures are Canada's rejection of arms exports to Yugoslavia, if they are likely to exacerbate the conflict in Kosovo or the Balkans region; a closer focus on democratic development and human rights projects in Kosovo through the Canada Fund, currently administered by Canada's Embassy in Belgrade; and Canada's continuing to consider appeals for humanitarian assistance for Kosovo. Canada will also consult with its allies to determine further multilateral measures and co-ordinate humanitarian assistance activities with other donors and international organizations.

"The responsibility for lifting these measures lays squarely with President Milosevic," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada will review



today's measures and be willing to assist the FRY in integrating into the international community, if President Milosevic takes steps to enter into a dialogue with the Kosovar Albanians over the status of Kosovo."

Mr. Axworthy recalled his meeting with former FRY Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic, now President of Serbia, in April 1996, when Mr. Axworthy had warned that the pace and scope of Canada's bilateral relations would depend upon the FRY's progress on human rights in general, and on peacefully resolving the Kosovo issue.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release

March 10, 1998

No. 49

MARCHI AWARDS MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE CHALLENGE CUP TO UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today presented the Minister for International Trade Challenge Cup to the members of a team of graduate business students from the University of Ottawa.

The University of Ottawa won the Minister's Cup as the top Canadian team in the annual Dalhousie University International Business Case Competition. Members of the winning Canadian team are Manon Abud, Banu Ozlem Unal, Armand de Vasselot, John Di Schiavi, Robert Mariani and Jason Shane. The team faculty advisors are Helen Joncas and Steven Quesnelle. Northeastern University of Boston received the international Maritime Tel & Tel Trophy as the overall winner of the competition.

"I am pleased to congratulate the University of Ottawa team on a winning effort against their competitors," said Mr. Marchi. "The Challenge Cup recognizes a high level of knowledge and aptitude in international business which will help students take on the challenges of the international marketplace."

"Once again, Dalhousie has done an outstanding job, organizing this international competition via teleconferencing."

This year, 12 universities participated in the competition including teams from Canada, the United States and Brazil.

The competition was established in 1987 by graduate students at Dalhousie University with sponsorship by the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company.

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News Release

March 10, 1998

No. 50

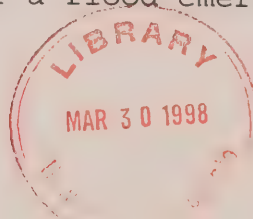
CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES STRENGTHEN CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIP

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright today announced a number of joint initiatives with the U.S. designed to strengthen the way Canada and the U.S. co-operate on issues directly affecting the citizens of both countries. The announcements were made during the Secretary of State's first official visit to Canada.

"Last April, Prime Minister Chrétien and President Clinton tasked our two governments with reinvigorating bilateral relations, especially with respect to what we do across the border," Minister Axworthy said. "We have a relationship that is already a model for the world, but it requires constant care, imagination and commitment to find ways to make it work even better. Secretary Albright and I have agreed on a number of forward-looking proposals that will help ensure that our relationship remains the envy of the world."

Minister Axworthy and Secretary Albright welcomed the recommendations of the report by the International Joint Commission (IJC), *The IJC and the 21st Century*, which redefines how the Commission might help Canada and the U.S. in managing the environmental relationship for the future. Specifically, they accepted in principle the recommendation to establish new binational watershed boards that would adopt an integrative ecosystem approach to the full range of water-related issues in the transboundary environment. They requested that the IJC, in consultation with the governments, identify a location for the first such board. The IJC is a binational, independent organization established under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909.

They welcomed the IJC Interim Report on the Red River Flood, which recommends ways to strengthen the mutual capacity for dealing with future crises in the Red River basin. They tasked the IJC to develop a framework for a flood emergency agreement



for the Red River basin, and to define the way in which the proposed Red River basin-wide flood forecasting committee would operate.

They further agreed to conduct a review of "lessons learned" from the Red River flood, the ice storm and other natural disasters to better prepare for future disasters on both sides of the border. This review is to be conducted under the Agreement governing co-operation between Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC) and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"I was very pleased with the level of co-operation shown by U.S. agencies, especially by the U.S. Department of Defence and FEMA, during the last two natural disasters. In undertaking a review, both our governments want to benefit from these experiences and further improve our response mechanisms for future emergencies," said the Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Emergency Preparedness Canada.

Secretary Albright and Minister Axworthy also announced an increase of US\$150,000 in annual funding by both governments to US\$350,000.00, beginning in 1999, for the Fulbright Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States. Created in 1990, the Fulbright Foundation has also received more than US\$4 million in financial support from the private sector.

Finally, they agreed to develop a new Canada-U.S. Youth Co-op Training Exchange program to encourage private sector exchanges enabling U.S. and Canadian university students to receive training at private businesses in Canada and the United States.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

March 11, 1998

No. 51

MARCHI WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FOR 1998 CANADA EXPORT AWARDS



International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today officially launched the call for applications for the 1998 Canada Export Awards.

The awards honour Canadian companies that have excelled in exporting their products and services to countries around the world.

"Now, more than ever, exports, which account for 40 percent of Canada's GDP, are vital to our economic growth, and to job creation for Canadians," said Marchi. "The Canada Export Award is one of the highest tributes exporters can receive. It recognizes the tremendous contribution that Canadian exporters are making to our livelihood and prosperity. I strongly encourage exporters from all parts of the country to apply for this special award."

The Canada Export Awards are presented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, in partnership with Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and EDC (Export Development Corporation).

The 1998 recipients will be announced at a special ceremony in Calgary, Alberta, on October 5, 1998, in conjunction with the third annual meeting of the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada.

Applications for the 1998 program must be received by April 15, 1998. To receive an application, contact 1-888-811-1119.

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For information on the Canada Export Awards, see the attached backgrounder.



For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

CANADA EXPORT AWARDS

Background

Each October for the past 15 years, the Canada Export Awards have recognized the success of Canadian companies that export their products and services to markets around the world. The recipients of these awards have contributed significantly to Canada's economic growth and have excelled in competing and succeeding in the global trading arena.

The 1998 recipients will be announced at a special ceremony in Calgary, Alberta, on October 5, 1998, in conjunction with the third annual meeting of the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada.

The Canada Export Awards are sponsored by two organizations well known to Canadian exporters, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and EDC (Export Development Corporation).

For the first time, special recognition was given in 1997 by the program's sponsors to three Canada Export Award winners. Under the auspices of the Canada Export Award program, Wulftec International from Ayer's Cliff, Quebec, was honoured with the CIBC Job Creation Achievement; Berg Chilling Systems of Scarborough was presented with the EDC Smaller Exporter Achievement, and the Innovation and Technology Achievement went to Nortel (Northern Telecom Limited), Belleville location.

Canada Export Award winners are featured in a national promotional campaign recognizing their accomplishments as exporters. Included in the campaign are:

- a special presentation ceremony honouring the winners, before an audience of 600 Canadian business and government representatives;
- special supplements and advertisements in national business magazines and newspapers;
- broadcast of 30-second and 60-second spots on radio stations across Canada;
- media relations efforts on behalf of winning companies to national, local and industry media outlets;
- video broadcasts, magazine supplements and advertisements on one of Canada's national airlines; and
- video clips to national and local television stations.

In addition, individual sponsors also undertake promotional campaigns on behalf of the winning companies. Included are such activities as conferences and speaking opportunities, dinners and receptions, advertising and promotional material.

Since the program's inception in 1983, 190 exporters, selected from approximately 3250 applications, have received the prestigious Canada Export Award.

Selection Criteria for a Canada Export Award

Applications for the Canada Export Awards are reviewed by a selection committee of Canadian business leaders. Eligible companies must be based in Canada and have actively exported for at least three years. In selecting the winners, the committee considers a company's performance in:

- introducing new products and services into world markets;
- significantly increasing export sales;
- holding markets in the face of strong competition;
- attaining a high level of Canadian content; and
- achieving a high ratio of export sales to total sales.

Special Criteria for Sponsor-Branded Awards

CIBC Job Creation Achievement

- largest employment growth and percentage increase
- largest number of quality jobs (e.g. high technology)
- employment growth in a high-unemployment area
- unique job creation strategies

Innovation and Technology Achievement

- amount of investment spent on new technology
- company process for encouraging innovation
- sharing of new technologies with partners or suppliers to increase overall performance
- technological innovation tied to expansion/exporting business plans

EDC Smaller Exporter Achievement

- recipient must have total annual sales of less than \$25 million
- judged on the total number of export countries served in 1997
- 1997 export growth by volume (dollars) over 1996 export volume
- if available, analysis of a strategic/operational plan to expand export markets and business in 1997 and for the future

Facts and Figures

A survey of the period 1983 to 1997 showed that of the total number of Canada Export Award winners:

- 31 percent went to small companies (under 100 employees);
- 37.4 percent went to large companies (1000 or more employees); and
- 31.6 percent went to medium-sized companies.

In terms of total sales:

- 34 percent had sales of \$50 million or more;
- 13 percent had sales of less than \$5 million; and
- 53 percent had sales between \$5 million and \$50 million.

Number of applications received by year:

- 1997 - 204
- 1996 - 251
- 1995 - 207
- 1994 - 252
- 1993 - 164
- 1992 - 211
- 1991 - 185
- 1990 - 180
- 1989 - 231
- 1988 - 255

Number of applications received by province:

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
British Columbia	30	18	30	20	16	26	19	41	26
Alberta	23	11	13	22	13	17	11	23	20
Saskatchewan	3	7	5	5	4	6	9	6	2
Manitoba	9	20	12	11	7	10	10	15	16
Ontario	127	93	77	101	76	114	93	97	87
Quebec	32	22	38	45	37	59	46	51	38
New Brunswick	3	3	3	2	2	9	7	7	7
Newfoundland	2	1	2	1	2	3	4	1	1
Prince Edward Island	1	0	1	1	2	1	3	4	0
Nova Scotia	1	5	4	3	5	7	5	5	7
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Number of recipients by province:

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
British Columbia	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1
Alberta	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1
Saskatchewan	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Manitoba	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0
Ontario	6	4	5	5	3	4	4	4	5
Quebec	4	3	4	3	2	2	3	3	2
New Brunswick	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Newfoundland	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

1998 Canada Export Award Selection Committee Members

- Kathryn McCallion – Assistant Deputy Minister, International Business, Passport and Consular Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Mark Drake – Senior Vice-President, Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada (Ottawa, Ontario)
- David Fardy – Senior Vice-President and General Manager, Cavendish Farms Ltd. (Dieppe, New Brunswick)
- George Groumoutis – Vice-President, Finance, Standard Knitting Limited (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
- Richard L'Abbé – President, MED-ENG Systems Inc. (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Rick P. Lovat – Vice-President, Lovat Tunnel Equipment Inc. (Rexdale, Ontario)
- Christina Pochmursky – Executive Producer, BusinessWorld (Toronto, Ontario)
- Miro Polegato – Vice-President, International Sales, Kvaerner Hymac Inc. (Laval, Quebec)

For information on the Canada Export Award Program, contact:

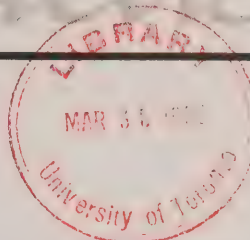
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News Release

March 11, 1998

No. 52

**MINISTER AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES
FOR ALGERIA**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced a series of new initiatives in support of Canada's current policy toward Algeria in light of a recent Canadian parliamentary delegation visit to this country.

"I was very pleased with the delegation's findings," said Minister Axworthy. "In just a few days, the delegation did a remarkable job that has given us a clearer picture of the situation in that country, and has helped us to identify the proper course of action in the pursuit of our current policy in Algeria."

The new initiatives include an early visit to Canada by Algerian parliamentarians and a meeting in Ottawa of the Canada-Algeria Bilateral Commission to be co-chaired by International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and an Algerian minister.

Canada will also encourage the voluntary sector, especially those groups that are active in women's and children's issues, to develop collaboration with their Algerian counterparts. "We have taken steps to equip our embassy in Algiers with enhanced resources to support this kind of co-operation," said Mr. Axworthy.

Measures will also be considered to encourage the independent Algerian press, and Mr. Axworthy invited the Canadian media to contribute in this exercise.

Canada continues to support the transition of Algeria's economy from a centrally planned to a market-driven model, and will promote increased trade and investment relations with Algeria in order to create employment and move the country to resolve its serious socio-economic problems.

"In this respect, Algeria can already count on a number of mechanisms, in particular EDC (Export Development Corporation) lines of credit, the co-operation program for private sector



development, and the ties that make Algeria Canada's leading trading partner in North Africa and the Middle East," said Minister Marchi. A trade mission, led by the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters of Canada, is scheduled to take place in Algeria later in March.

The recent visit to Algeria by the Canadian parliamentary delegation was led by Minister of State and Government House Leader Don Boudria. Senators Pierre de Bané and Gérald Comeau along with Members of Parliament Raymonde Folco and Hélène Alarie completed the delegation.

During their visit, the group met with Algeria's Prime Minister, six ministers, including the Foreign Affairs Minister, Algerian members of parliament, representatives of six opposition parties, and numerous NGOs, including groups supporting the victims of violence, journalists, and human rights advocates.

- 30 -

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News Release

March 12, 1998

No. 53

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS ATTACK ON BURMESE REFUGEE CAMP

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned yesterday's attack on a Burmese refugee camp near Mae Sot on the Thai-Burma border, and expressed deep concern for the victims and their families. He also welcomed the Thai government's assertion that it will do its utmost to prevent such attacks in the future.

The Burmese Ambassador to Canada has been called in by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to be advised of the Government of Canada's condemnation of this act.

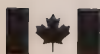
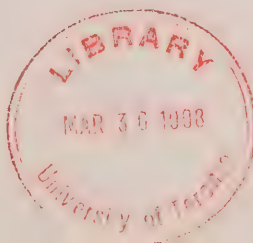
"Canada is appalled by the cross-border attack on Burmese refugees in Thailand, a painful reminder of the Burmese government's continued abuse of its citizens," said Minister Axworthy. "In addition to transgressing international boundaries, the attack represents an unacceptable violation of basic human rights."

On March 11, 1998, Burmese military forces, supported by a group of Karens allied with them, destroyed the Huay Kalok refugee camp in Thailand. Current reports indicate that four people were killed, 39 wounded, and thousands of refugees left without shelter.

"We urge the Burmese military regime to make a commitment to democratic reform and to its own stated objective of national reconciliation," said Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific).

The Government of Canada has repeatedly condemned all actions by Burma's military regime that deny basic human rights to the people of Burma. Canada suspended bilateral aid to Burma following the 1988 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Rangoon. On August 7, 1997, Canada adopted further economic measures to underscore its concerns over the suppression of political freedoms. Since 1992, Canada has provided \$685 000 in aid to Burmese refugees in Thailand.

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News Release

March 12, 1998

No. 54

CANADA WELCOMES CHINESE ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO SIGN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the announcement by China's Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen that China intends to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"I am particularly pleased that this announcement comes just days after Canada and China jointly hosted a multilateral human rights meeting," said Mr. Axworthy. "It remains very important, however, that China sign the Covenant as soon as possible, and follow through with a timely ratification."

"This is a welcome development that indicates an increased willingness on the part of China to accept and respect universal human rights standards. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is one of the most significant international human rights instruments," added Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

Canada and China announced a bilateral human rights dialogue in April 1997 that included the establishment of a Joint Committee on Human Rights. The Joint Committee, which has met twice over the past year, provides a forum to address all human rights issues, including political and civil rights, religious freedoms, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as women's and children's rights. Canada has also used these meetings to encourage China to accede to international human rights treaties including the international covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. China signed the latter in October 1997, but has not yet ratified it.

Under the provisions of the bilateral dialogue, both countries co-hosted a human rights symposium in British Columbia earlier this month with participants from several Asia-Pacific and other countries.

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News Release

March 13, 1998

No. 55

MINISTER MARCHI TO LEAD NEW EXPORTERS MISSION TO CHICAGO AND PARTICIPATE IN FTAA DISCUSSIONS IN COSTA RICA

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will lead a New Exporters to Border States (NEBS) mission to Chicago March 15 to 17, 1998, and will also join the hemisphere's trade ministers in San José, Costa Rica, for discussions on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) on March 19.

Sixty Canadian companies will take part in National Manufacturing Week trade shows and in NEBS training sessions organized by the Canadian consulate in Chicago.

"NEBS missions are a superb learning opportunity for Canadian firms interested in exporting to the United States," said Mr. Marchi. "The companies on this mission demonstrate how Canada's manufacturing sector offers leading-edge technology at great value to the American market. I take great satisfaction in knowing that NEBS missions are helping them take the first steps toward export success."

The companies on this NEBS mission are small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. In addition to the trade shows and export training sessions, these firms will participate in networking events with Chicago-based businesses.

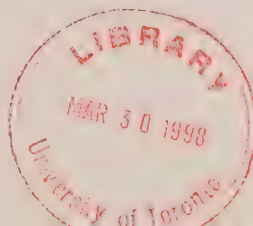
In Chicago, Minister Marchi will also address the Mid-America Committee and the Midwest Forum, and meet with senior financial representatives to promote Canada-U.S. bilateral relations and investment in Canada. He will participate in the signing of six agreements designed to facilitate trade and build alliances between Canada and the United States.

In San José, Minister Marchi and his counterparts will review the progress of FTAA working groups and decide on advice to give their heads of government leading up to the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, in April.



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"Canada is determined to continue to boost its trade and investment links with Latin America," said Mr. Marchi. "The deals signed during the recent Team Canada mission to the region demonstrate the enormous potential of this market."

At the Santiago Summit, Prime Minister Chrétien and the other leaders of the hemisphere plan to launch negotiations toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas, in keeping with the action plan of the December 1994 Miami Summit.

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A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Background

THE NEW EXPORTERS TO BORDER STATES PROGRAM

What NEBS Is

The New Exporters to Border States (NEBS) program is an export education tool that targets Canadian companies that are not yet exporting to the United States. NEBS introduces the essentials of exporting, including practical trade information, and provides first-hand exposure to markets in U.S. border states.

A recent expansion to the program, NEBS Plus, serves Canadian companies that are currently exporting to U.S. border states. NEBS Plus focusses on expanding the markets of successful exporters to other regions of the United States.

In this global economy, Canadian companies are encouraged to consider the border states as their first foreign market, indeed, as an initial entry to the many regional markets in the United States. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provides vast trade opportunities, and the United States serves as an ideal springboard to emerging markets worldwide.

How the Program Works

NEBS missions vary depending on the destination and interest of the participants. Missions last from one to three days, and include:

- Pre-mission briefing on export services and programs available from the federal and provincial governments;
- Travel to a Canadian post in the United States;
- Briefing on border procedures;
- Presentations by U.S. manufacturers' representatives, sales agents, distributors or buyers;
- Tours of relevant trade shows;
- Visits to local wholesalers or retailers;
- Briefings on local U.S. markets;
- Meetings with Canadian Consulate trade officers and potential agents or distributors;
- Distribution of export information guides and kits.

Program Costs

A non-refundable participation fee of US\$75 applies to each company representative on the mission, payable by cheque to the Canadian Consulate hosting the mission.

The government may cover up to two nights hotel accommodation, and/or trade show entrance fees. Airfare, transportation, and personal expenses are the responsibility of the participant.

Who Qualifies

NEBS: Canadian companies incorporated and operating in Canada that have an interest in, but are not yet exporting to the United States on a regular basis, are eligible for NEBS programs.

NEBS Plus: Canadian companies with sales of less than \$2.3 million, currently exporting to the United States, are eligible to participate in a NEBS Plus mission to other regions of the United States.

How Companies Can Apply

Companies interested in applying for the NEBS and NEBS Plus programs should contact their nearest International Trade Centre (ITC) listed on our Web site.

For more information please visit our Web site at:

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/GEO/USA/nebcal-e.htm>

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/français/GEO/USA/nebcal-f.htm>

News Release

March 13, 1998

No. 56

KILGOUR TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

David Kilgour, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), will represent Canada at the 39th annual meeting of the board of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Cartagena, Colombia, from March 16 to 18.

Kilgour is attending on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Co-operation Minister Diane Marleau, who is responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Kilgour will address the board of governors and will meet with ministers and senior officials from several countries in the region.

"The Inter-American Development Bank plays a vital role in the region's economic and social evolution," said Kilgour. "We expect the bank to continue its constructive work in advancing the agenda of the upcoming Santiago Summit – in particular, the elimination of poverty and discrimination in the hemisphere."

The IDB is the most important lender for development projects in the region, providing about \$7 billion annually. Canada is the bank's sixth-largest shareholder, and thus far has made available \$228 million (US\$161 million) for lending.

The IDB was created in 1959, and is the largest and oldest of the world's regional development banks. The bank has 46 members, including countries from Latin America, the Caribbean and the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). Canada has been a member of the bank since 1972, and CIDA is responsible for Canada's relations with the bank.

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News Release

March 16, 1998

No. 57

**APPOINTMENTS TO IDRC BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointments of Marie Ann Battiste and Paulynn P. Sicam, and the reappointment of Huguette Labelle, to the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Marie Ann Battiste has been an Associate Professor in the Indian and Northern Education Program of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon since 1993. She is also Executive Director of the Apamuek Institute in Eskasoni, Nova Scotia. From 1989 to 1993, she served as the Mi'kmaq Cultural Co-ordinator of the Eskasoni School Board. Ms. Battiste has held a number of teaching positions, including Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco in 1992; Education Director and Principal, Mi'kmawey School, Chapel Island Reserve, St. Peter's, Nova Scotia, from 1984 to 1988; and Adjunct Professor, Native Chair, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, New Brunswick, from 1986 to 1987.

Since 1995, Paulynn Sicam has been heading the Peace and Human Rights Desk at the Benigno Aquino Foundation in the Philippines. Recently, she presided over the development of a curriculum for instructors at Philippine national police training units that integrates human rights into all of the subjects they teach. Ms. Sicam was a member of the Philippine Commission on Human Rights (CHR) from 1991 to 1994. As Commissioner in Charge of Education and Information, she directed the development of the CHR's training program for the Philippine military, police and public school teachers, for which the Commission received the UNESCO prize for Human Rights Education in 1994.

Huguette Labelle has been President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) since 1993. Prior to joining CIDA, she was Deputy Minister of Transport Canada from 1990 to 1993; Chairperson of the Public Service Commission of Canada from 1985 to 1990; Associate Secretary to the Cabinet and Deputy Clerk of the Privy Council (1985); and Under Secretary of State for the Department of the Secretary of State from 1980 to 1985. From 1973 to 1980, Ms. Labelle held senior management positions in Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and in Health and Welfare Canada. Ms. Labelle is currently Chancellor of the University of Ottawa and member of the Board of Directors of the Export Development



Corporation, the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Ms. Labelle is also Vice-Chairwoman of the China Council for International Co-operation on Environment and Development.

IDRC is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing-country scientists and communities find solutions to social, economic and environmental problems through research. By bringing together people, institutions and ideas, IDRC seeks to ensure that the benefits of this research will be shared equitably among all its partners in both the northern and the southern hemispheres.

IDRC is directed by a 21-member Board of Governors comprising 11 Canadian members and 10 non-Canadian members.

- 30 -

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News Release

March 18, 1998

No. 58

AXWORTHY TO VISIT HUNGARY, BOSNIA AND THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENEVA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will visit Budapest, Hungary, Banja Luka and Sarajevo in Bosnia, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva from March 26 to 30. His visit will focus on the issues of anti-personnel (AP) mines, peacebuilding, and human rights.

While in Budapest, on March 26, Minister Axworthy will meet with Foreign Minister Lazlo Kovacs, and is expected to meet with President Arpad Goncz, Prime Minister Gyula Horn, and President of the National Assembly Zoltan Gal. Mr. Axworthy will also address the Budapest Regional Conference on anti-personnel mines organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Committee to Ban Landmines, with the support of the host Hungarian government and Parliament.

Representatives from Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine are expected to attend the conference. Experts from a number of non-governmental organizations will also participate. Conference discussions will focus on the key issue of military effectiveness versus the humanitarian impact of AP mines.

"As a number of the conference's participant countries are not signatories to the Ottawa Treaty, it is crucial that we maintain an ongoing dialogue with them on the landmines issue in forums like this conference," Minister Axworthy said.

Minister Axworthy will then travel to Bosnia to reinforce Canada's commitment to the Dayton Accords and to focus on demining issues. Mr. Axworthy is expected to meet with Republika Srpska President Biljana Plavsic and Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, and tour the Canadian area of operations of the NATO-led Stabilization Force on March 27. On March 28, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Bosnian Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic, Muslim-Croat Federation President Ejup Ganic, and Deputy High Representative Hanns Schumacher, and visit the United Nations Mine Action Centre.



In Geneva, on March 30, Minister Axworthy will address the 54th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR). The Commission, which this year meets from March 16 to April 24, has an extensive mandate that allows it to examine the whole spectrum of human rights issues. The 53 Member States of the Commission will scrutinize human rights conditions in at least 16 states and territories at this year's Commission, and consider a number of issues such as the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and Indigenous Peoples.

"This year's 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights marks a crossroads for Canada and the international community," said Mr. Axworthy. "Over the last 50 years, an impressive array of international human rights instruments have been developed. It is now time that Commission members move beyond setting standards and into implementing our human rights commitments."

While in Geneva, Minister Axworthy will also meet with Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



News Release

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March 18, 1998

No. 59

CANADA SIGNS AGREEMENTS WITH COSTA RICA AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET IN SAN JOSÉ

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi signed two agreements today in San José, Costa Rica, that demonstrate Canada's continuing commitment to liberalize trade and investment in the Americas.

While attending a meeting of the hemisphere's trade ministers on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), Minister Marchi signed a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) with Costa Rica, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Trade and Investment with the Central American Common Market.

"As we head into the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, I am optimistic that these agreements help our work in building a hemisphere-wide free trade area that will benefit all our citizens," said Mr. Marchi.

"Furthermore, this bolsters Canada's trade and investment links to the world of the Americas," added the Minister. "These latest initiatives complement our trade agreements with Mexico and Chile, our discussions toward an enhanced relationship with Mercosur and our recent successful Team Canada mission to the region."

Dr. José Salazar, Minister of External Trade, signed the FIPA on behalf of Costa Rica. The following Ministers signed the MOU on behalf of the Central American Common Market: José Manuel Salazar; Eduardo Ayala Grimaldi, Vice-Minister of the Economy, El Salvador; Juan Mauricio Wurmser, Minister of Economy, Guatemala; Reginaldo Panting, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Honduras; Noel Sacasa-Cruz, Minister of Economy and Development, Nicaragua.

The Canada-Costa Rica FIPA obligates the parties to protect and promote investment for each other's investors. The agreement provides for rules related to expropriation, transfer of funds, investor-state and state-to-state dispute settlement. Under the



agreement, both countries agree to make information about their investment rules available. Canadian firms have sizeable investments in Costa Rica in banking, hotels, and publishing.

The MOU with the Central American Common Market will result in more regular meetings between members and Canada in order to promote trade and investment. The members of the Central American Common Market are: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

In San José, Minister Marchi and his counterparts are reviewing the progress of the FTAA working groups, and deciding on advice to give their heads of government leading up to the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, in April.

At the Santiago Summit, Prime Minister Chrétien and the hemisphere's other leaders plan to launch FTAA negotiations, in keeping with the action plan of the December 1994 Miami Summit.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release

March 19, 1998

No. 60

CANADA TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau is pleased to announce that Canada will celebrate the International Day of la Francophonie on March 20. This day will provide Canadians and Francophones all over the world with an opportunity to celebrate la Francophonie, an international association of 52 countries and governments representing over 250 million people.

March 20 commemorates the creation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) in Niamey, Niger in 1970. Since the 1995 Summit in Cotonou, Benin, the ACCT has officially been known as L'Agence de la Francophonie.

"La Francophonie is a community of peoples involved in a dialogue of co-operation," said Minister Marleau. "As more than 8.5 million Canadians speak French, Canada's membership is an important international projection of its national personality and a means to promote Canada's French language and culture at an international level."

Madame Marleau added that Canada's presence also promotes justice, democracy, peace and understanding. In 1997, Canada participated in the Francophonie Games in Madagascar and the Hanoi Summit.

"Canada is an active and enthusiastic member of la Francophonie and is proud to have been selected as host of both the 1999 Summit, in Moncton, New Brunswick and the 2001 Francophonie Games in Ottawa-Hull," said Madame Marleau.

As part of the festivities for the International Day of la Francophonie, Minister Marleau invited representatives of member countries to a ceremony at Parliament Hill on March 20, during which the Prix de la Francophonie internationale, the Prix de la Francophonie nationale, and the Ordre de la Pléiade de l'Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française (International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians) will be awarded.



In addition to these ceremonies, Canadian missions abroad will take part in a number of activities ranging from film festivals to book donations, and organize contests and exhibitions celebrating the International Day of la Francophonie.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
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News Release

March 19, 1998

No. 61

Please find attached a letter sent today by International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi to Maude Barlow, National Volunteer Chairperson to The Council of Canadians.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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March 19, 1998

Ms. Maude Barlow
National Volunteer Chairperson
The Council of Canadians
904-251 Laurier West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5J6

Dear Ms. Barlow:

I find it remarkable that, having for months refused the offer of a briefing from our chief negotiator William Dymond and having last week cancelled a scheduled meeting with myself and other representatives of the Government, you are now requesting that I debate you on the potential Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

It appears, regrettably, that you and your organization do not want your fear-mongering to be impeded by knowledge of the facts.

I had looked forward to last week's meeting, because it is my sense that the points I made in my speech of February 13 should lay to rest the concerns voiced by you and your organization. Specifically, I have assured Canadians that the Government will not sign any MAI unless it meets a number of requirements including: ironclad reservations -- at the national and sub-national level -- without standstill or rollback, protecting our freedom of action in social programs, health care, education, programs for Aboriginal Peoples and programs for minority groups; the complete exemption of Canadian culture from any MAI provisions; and a narrow interpretation of expropriation that makes clear that legislative or regulatory action in the public interest does not constitute expropriation requiring compensation, even if it adversely affects the profitability of corporations or investors.

If you or other members of your organization still had any outstanding concerns despite these assurances, I had hoped that last week's meeting would provide an opportunity for you to offer constructive suggestions and input, as part of the Government's extensive and ongoing consultation process.

It is therefore difficult to understand why, if you remain as concerned about the possible impact of the MAI negotiations on Canada as you purport to be, you accorded higher priority last week to promoting your book in the United States than to attending a scheduled meeting with me, my Parliamentary Secretary, the Chair of the House of Commons Sub-Committee on International Trade, and our MAI chief negotiator.

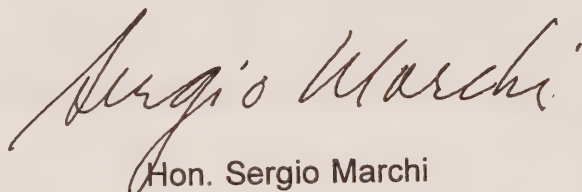
My priority as Minister is trade promotion and promoting Canada's best interests. Your priority appears to be book promotion and otherwise advancing your own interests. That is your prerogative, but I find it unfortunate that you persist in needlessly alarming and misleading Canadians while continuing to ignore the facts of the situation.

My standing offer to meet with you and members of your organization remains open, if and when you are interested in a constructive discussion of the facts.

As to the matter of a debate, I have already participated last month in a day-long, nationally-televised debate in Parliament with all the opposition parties on the MAI. The Council of Canadians has also had the opportunity to make known its views when you appeared before the House Sub-Committee on International Trade during their recent public hearings on the issue. I am continuing to consult extensively, and am always ready to explain and discuss the Government's approach with all Canadians who approach the matter with good faith.

Since you have refused to meet with me or our MAI chief negotiator, since you persist -- as recently as in your newspaper ads this week -- in ignoring the facts and my own statements, and since I have already debated this issue in the House of Commons three weeks ago, I simply question how legitimate your debate proposal is towards increasing public understanding and enhancing a thoughtful and informed public dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Sergio Marchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sergio" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Marchi".

Hon. Sergio Marchi

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News Release

March 19, 1998

N° 62

MARCHI TO VISIT BEIJING, SHANGHAI AND HONG KONG ACCOMPANIED BY BUSINESS DELEGATION

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will make his first official visit to China and Hong Kong from March 27 to April 5, 1998. Mr. Marchi will be accompanied by over 100 representatives from Canadian companies and organizations doing business in China, representing a range of sectors, including agri-food, energy, transportation, construction and financial services.

"China has emerged as a major global economic force, while Hong Kong is one of the world's foremost financial centres," said Mr. Marchi. "Both of these dynamic markets are a high priority for Canadian business. I welcome this opportunity to support the companies travelling with me and help them gain a competitive edge."

The Minister will outline his objectives for the visit in a speech in Vancouver on March 27 at a business event hosted by the Canada China Business Council and the Vancouver Board of Trade.

Minister Marchi will then travel to Beijing, where he will meet with his counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, on March 29. In Beijing, a series of bilateral meetings are scheduled with senior Chinese leaders from the ministries of construction and agriculture, the People's Bank of China, the State Planning Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Canadian companies will take part in these meetings as well as meet with senior Chinese business leaders.

On March 31, Mr. Marchi will mark the twentieth anniversary of the Canada China Business Council by delivering an address to the organization's Beijing Chapter.

From April 1 to 2 in Shanghai, Mr. Marchi will meet with Mayor of Shanghai, Mr. Xu Kuandgi and be joined by members of the business delegation during a visit to Pudong, Shanghai's new business centre. Mr. Marchi will also deliver an address to the Canadian Business Forum.



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In Hong Kong from April 3 to 4, Mr. Marchi will hold bilateral meetings with Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, Anson Chan, Chief Secretary for Administration for the Hong Kong Government and other government leaders. A series of events involving business, education marketing and culture are also scheduled.

- 30 -

A list of the business delegation is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

**List of the Canadian Business Delegation
Visit of the Minister for International Trade to Beijing, Shanghai and
Hong Kong**

Aaccess China Inc., Ottawa, Ontario
AGF Mutual Funds, Toronto, Ontario
Agra International Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario
America-Asian & Associates Corp., Toronto, Ontario
Arkbros Industries, Mississauga, Ontario
Arriscraft International Inc., Cambridge, Ontario
Asean Brown Boveri Inc., Montreal, Quebec
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Ottawa, Ontario
Bank of Montreal, Toronto, Ontario
Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ontario
Blake, Cassels & Graydon, Toronto, Ontario
Bull, Housser & Tupper, Vancouver, British Columbia
CAE Electronics Ltd., St. Laurent, Quebec
Canada China Power Inc., Montreal, Quebec
Canadian Tourism Commission, Ottawa, Ontario
Canadian Commercial Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario
Canadian Pacific Railway, Calgary, Alberta
Canadian Aerospace Group, Burlington, Ontario
Catherine A. Sas Immigration Law Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia
Cavendish Farms, Dieppe, New Brunswick
Chatham Beans 66 Limited, Chatham/Glenham, Ontario
CFS International Inc., North York, Ontario
China International Trade Centre & Investment, Vancouver, British Columbia
Cook's Division of Parrish & Heimbecke, Centralia, Ontario
Davey International Inc., Stoney Creek, Ontario
Easy Fields Consultants (Canada) Ltd., Markham, Ontario
Edwin Industries (F.E.) Ltd., Hong Kong, China
Elsag Bailey (Canada) Inc., Burlington, Ontario
EthnoVision Inc., Montreal, Quebec
Export Development Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario
Fulton Windows, Mississauga, Ontario
GE Canada International Inc., Toronto, Ontario
Global Group, Richmond, British Columbia
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Harris Great China Division, Montreal, Quebec
H.A. Simons Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia
Inniskillin Wines Inc., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
JetForm Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario
Joe Ng Engineering, Ottawa, Ontario
Klockner Stadler Hurter Ltd., Montreal, Quebec
London Life International, London, Ontario
Madawaska Doors Inc., Bolton, Ontario
Magnate Shipping Lines Ltd., Mississauga, Ontario
Manulife Financial, Toronto, Ontario
McCarthy Tetrault, Toronto, Ontario
Med-Eng Systems Inc., Ottawa, Ontario

Metaris Inc., Downsview, Ontario
 Michael HK Wong Architects Inc., Toronto, Ontario
 Newbridge Networks Corporation, Kanata, Ontario
 North East Asian Trading Ltd., Whitehorse, Yukon
 Novel Energy (North America) Ltd., Calgary, Alberta
 OPI Systems Inc., Calgary, Alberta,
 Panda North American Ventures Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia
 Paxtan Educational Inc., Toronto, Ontario
 Pearl Seaproducts Inc., Sechelt, British Columbia
 Power Corporation, Montreal, Quebec
 Rahallion Immune Products, Ottawa, Ontario
 Raytheon Canada Limited, Waterloo, Ontario
 Ronald A. Chisholm Limited, Toronto, Ontario
 Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, Ontario
 Stikeman, Elliott, Montreal, Quebec
 SinoCann Entrepreneurs Exchange Association, Mississauga, Ontario
 SLM Software Inc., Toronto, Ontario
 SNC-Lavalin International Inc., Montreal, Quebec
 SR Telecom Inc., Ottawa, Ontario
 SRI Homes Inc., Kelowna, British Columbia
 Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Toronto, Ontario
 Sunwing Energy Ltd., Calgary, Alberta
 Teleglobe Canada, Montreal, Quebec
 Teshmont Consultants Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba
 The Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, Manitoba
 The Canada Life Assurance Company, Toronto, Ontario
 W.G. Thompson & Sons Limited, Blenheim, Ontario
 W.J. Stelmaschuk and Associates Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia
 Westcoast Energy (Asia) Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia
 Worldtek (Canada) Ltd., Toronto, Ontario
 YES Canada Education Services, Penticton, British Columbia

News Release

March 19, 1998

No. 63

MARCHI CONDEMNS FRAUDULENT USE OF DEPARTMENTAL LETTERHEAD

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today condemned the fraudulent use of Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade letterhead by a group from Winnipeg opposed to the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), which calls itself CHOICES.

The group issued a news release, using the department's letterhead, to advise media about an alleged speech that Minister Marchi was to deliver in Winnipeg this afternoon. The release included both actual and fictitious quotes, attributed to the Minister, which were manipulated to show support for their anti-MAI demonstration.

Copies of the Minister's speeches on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and other information on this subject can be found on the Department's Internet site.

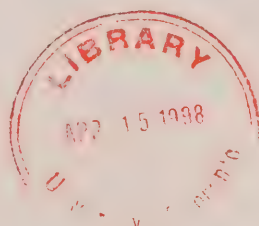
- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



News Release

March 19, 1998

No. 64

CANADA TO CHAIR HEMISPHERIC FREE TRADE TALKS FOLLOWING SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today that Canada has accepted the request of the hemisphere's nations to chair negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) for the vital, first 18 months after the Santiago Summit.

This strong endorsement from the region's trade ministers, reached at the FTAA Ministerial in San José, Costa Rica, also means that Canada will host the next ministerial meeting in late 1999.

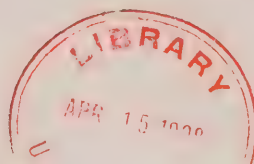
"The decision to have Canada chair the FTAA process is a great privilege," said Mr. Marchi. "It is also a strong vote of confidence in our ability to get the talks off to a productive start and to guide the process in the critically important first phase."

Canada was also instrumental in the establishment of a committee of government representatives that will receive views from a broad cross-section of society -- such as business, labour, environmental and academic groups -- on how FTAA should evolve.

"The FTAA is a grand project that will affect all our citizens," said the Minister. "I am heartened that the hemisphere's nations agree with Canada that we must involve all sectors of our societies in an open, transparent manner."

"Canada's role in the FTAA process is one more important step in our diverse efforts to liberalize trade in the hemisphere," added Minister Marchi. "We have consolidated the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), signed a free trade agreement with Chile, and are strengthening our links with Mercosur."

On March 18, in Costa Rica, Canada signed a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) with Costa Rica, and a Memorandum of Understanding on Trade and Investment with the Central American Common Market. Canada has also begun discussions



with the Andean Community on developing a closer trade relationship.

Other key agreements reached at the Ministerial include:

- Negotiating groups should begin their work by the end of September 1998.
- Nine negotiating groups have been established on: market access; investment; services; government procurement; dispute settlement; agriculture; intellectual property rights; subsidies, antidumping and countervailing duties; and competition policy.
- Negotiations will proceed simultaneously in all areas.
- Miami has been chosen as the venue for the negotiations for the next three years.
- A Consultative Group on Smaller Economies has been created to ensure the concerns of small nations are taken into account in FTAA talks.

- 30 -

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News Release

March 20, 1998

No. 65

CANADA TO HOST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada will host a workshop in Ottawa on March 23 and 24, 1998, to mobilize the international community in its efforts to co-ordinate support for the mine action agenda resulting from the conference in Ottawa last December.

"Now that we have a treaty, the anti-personnel (AP) mine campaign focus shifts to the immediate priorities of maintaining the political will to implement the convention and co-ordinate mine action activities," said Mr. Axworthy. "Decisions made at the workshop will directly support the Mine Action Services Unit of the United Nations in devising an integrated approach to the humanitarian challenge of the landmine crisis."

Senior working-level experts from donor and mine-affected countries, multilateral agencies and NGOs will discuss ways to promote partnerships that will eliminate duplication of activities. The goal is to ensure the most effective use of the millions of dollars pledged by donor countries during the Ottawa Conference. To do this, participants will look at: resources and implementation to understand how best to co-ordinate the multilateral, bilateral and regional mine action efforts; existing data to help define the scope of the landmine problem; standards and evaluation to assess how to set appropriate norms and; technology to determine which types are most effective for demining and victim assistance.

Canada was the first, along with South Africa and Norway, to sign the Ottawa Treaty on December 3, 1997. During that conference, 122 countries signed the treaty and, since then, two more have signed. Canada was the first country to ratify the treaty after signing. Five other countries have also done so. The treaty will enter into force after 40 countries have ratified it.

- 30 -

The media program for the workshop is attached.

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Workshop on Mine Action Co-ordination

MEDIA PROGRAM

Monday, March 23

09:00-09:45 Opening remarks by Foreign Affairs Minister
Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International
Co-operation Diane Marleau.

Open Coverage

Plenary Session Presentations – *Open Coverage*

09:45-10:45 Resources and Implementation: To understand how
best to co-ordinate the multilateral, bilateral,
and regional mine action efforts;

10:45-11:45 Data: To help define the scope of the landmine
problem;

11:45-12:30 Standards and Evaluation: To assess how to set
appropriate norms;

12:30-13:15 Technology: To determine which types are most
effective for demining and victim assistance.

Tuesday, March 24

Plenary Session – *Open Coverage*

11:00-12:30 Working Group Chairs' Reports

15:30-16:00 Closing remarks by Minister Axworthy, followed by
distribution of the Chair's Summary.

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News Release

March 24, 1998

No. 66

CANADA ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES IN MINE ACTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation, today announced funding in support of mine action in Bosnia, Cambodia and Afghanistan. The announcement came at the close of the International Workshop for Mine Action Co-ordination in Ottawa.

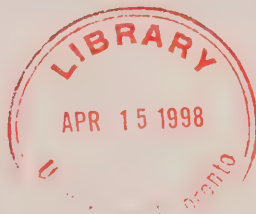
In Bosnia, a war-torn country where Canadian peacekeepers have played a key role, Canada will spend up to \$10 million over five years to support an innovative mine action program. It will initially focus on northwest Bosnia, the area of responsibility for the Canadian peacekeeping contingent.

"We believe we have developed an effective, practical way to use existing demining expertise in Bosnia," said Minister Axworthy, who will travel to Bosnia later this week. "Our objective is to substantially reduce the risk posed by landmines to the people of Bosnia. Working with Canada's international partners, we will work to clear at least half of the highest priority contaminated areas in the country within five years. This will facilitate the safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes."

This program, the first to come from the \$100 million Canadian Landmines Fund announced last December, was designed with co-operation in mind. Under the program's "adopt-a-team" concept, Canada will encourage other donors to provide technical support to local demining teams. For \$500 000 per year, these 30-person teams will be able to operate on an ongoing basis.

"I invite our international partners to join Canada in adopting a team of demining personnel", said Minister Marleau. "This approach will boost on-the-ground demining efforts in a practical and nationally co-ordinated manner."

On March 26, Minister Axworthy will open the Budapest Regional Conference on anti-personnel mines hosted by the Hungarian government. He will also visit northwest Bosnia to discuss implementation of the new program. Madame Marleau was in Sarajevo in early March where she witnessed the impact of landmines on the people of that city.



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In addition, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will continue its ongoing support for mine action in Cambodia and Afghanistan. It will provide \$1 million to the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) to assist it in its demining programs, bringing the total CIDA contribution to CMAC to \$3.9 million. CIDA will also contribute \$1 million in additional funding to the United Nations Centre for Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan, for a total of \$4.75 million. These two contributions are part of CIDA's long-term program funding for mine action in Cambodia and Afghanistan.

"The key focus of any mine action programs is not so much on the number of mines as on the number of victims and the amount of arable land lost to development and productive use — in other words, on the real impact on daily life," said Mr. Axworthy.

In both countries, efforts will aim at enhancing the ability of people in mine-affected areas to rebuild their communities.

"At all times," said Minister Marleau, "our actions have to be people-centred. After all, individuals, one by one, and each in their own right, are the engine of development."

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site:
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News Release

March 24, 1998

No. 67

NEW FRAMEWORK UNDERSCORES CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO MINE ACTION CO-ORDINATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation, today announced new measures in the fight against anti-personnel (AP) mines. The announcement came at the close of the International Workshop for Mine Action Co-ordination in Ottawa.

The ministers announced that a framework for partnership in global mine action — between Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, National Defence, and Industry Canada — has been established to manage the \$100 million fund announced by Prime Minister Chrétien last December. The role of Canadian and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in contributing to the development of mine action policy and program delivery will promote an effective and co-ordinated response to the AP mine crisis.

"It is this partnership between departments and NGOs that shows the high priority we place on an integrated, holistic approach to mine action," said Minister Axworthy. "We owe it to victims to get down to action without delay."

"Canada and the world community are determined to make the best use of our common resources to address the crisis of landmines," said Minister Marleau.

During the workshop, participants recognized the need to reinforce the capacity of the United Nations (UN) to act as a focal point for co-ordinated anti-personnel mine activities. Canada is responding immediately to this need by today announcing a contribution of \$2 million in 1998-99 to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Clearance in support of the Mine Action Service. These funds will be used to reinforce the UN's ability to undertake assessment missions and surveys — the essential first step in effective mine action — and to co-ordinate global efforts.



The Ottawa convention banning anti-personnel mines, is the first disarmament instrument to ban a widely used weapon of war. The convention calls for international co-operation to ensure stockpile destruction, assistance to victims and mine clearance.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release

March 24, 1998

No. 68

KILGOUR TO LEAD CANADIAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO GUINEA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, TOGO, GHANA, MALI AND SOUTH AFRICA

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will lead a Canadian business development mission to Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Ghana, Mali and South Africa from April 1 to 15. The Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Jean Augustine, who is actively involved in international and domestic social justice issues, will also participate. Augustine is a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Chair of the Canadian Association for Parliamentarians.

"Canadians are looking more and more to Africa in ways which reflect the continent as an area of economic growth," said Kilgour. "With Africa's economies reaching new heights, Canada can play a vital role through continued trade and investment."

The visit is intended to raise Canada's profile in Africa and to reinforce Canadian relations with these countries, many of which are dynamic poles of growth in their regions. Sub-Saharan Africa has shown positive economic growth in recent years, averaging growth of approximately 5 percent in 1997.

"Africa has a market of over 700 million people in 55 countries and will assume prominence in the global economy in the coming decade," said Kilgour.

Apart from promoting bilateral trade and investment opportunities, Secretary of State Kilgour will meet with a number of African leaders during the visit. At these meetings, he will discuss human rights, peacebuilding, ratification of the landmines treaty, Canada's bid for a seat on the Security Council, and the situations in Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

Kilgour expects to meet with President Henri Konan Bédié and Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan of Côte d'Ivoire; President Gen. Gnassingbé Eyadema and Prime Minister Kwassi Klutse of Togo;



President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana; and President Alpha Oumar Konaré and Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of Mali.

Twenty Canadian companies have so far confirmed their participation in this mission. They represent Canadian expertise in the transportation, telecommunications, energy, mining and services sectors. The delegation will consist of small and medium-sized enterprises searching out new markets, as well as Canadian companies that have long-standing connections with Africa.

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A draft list of the business delegation is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Sara Mohsin
Office of the Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa)
(613) 992-9404

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

**Draft List of Canadian Companies Participating
in the Business Development Mission to Africa**

Bell Helicopter Textron, Ottawa, Ontario
Berocan International Inc., Montréal, Quebec
Bexcan, Pierrefonds, Quebec
Canarail Consultants Inc., Montréal, Quebec
E-com, Moncton, New Brunswick
Geomatics International Inc., Burlington, Ontario
Harris Corporation Farinon Division, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec
Haut-Monts Inc., Beauport, Quebec
Iamgold International Mining Gold Corp., Markham, Ontario
Le Groupe Roy Consultants Ltée, Bathurst, New Brunswick
Northern Telecom, Ottawa, Ontario
P.A. Conseils International (Canada) Inc., Westmount, Quebec
Polymonde, Montréal, Quebec
R. Mabit Inc., Verchères, Quebec
Ranger Oil Ltd., Calgary, Alberta
Restek Consultants Ltée, Montréal, Quebec
Rougier Inc., Montréal, Quebec
Sirtec Inc., Montréal, Quebec
SR Telecom Inc., Ottawa, Ontario
Vianou Corporation Consulting Rep's Inc., Montréal, Quebec

News Release

March 24, 1998

No. 69

KILGOUR TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL MISSION TO SIERRA LEONE

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will participate in a Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) mission to Sierra Leone from March 30 to 31.

Kilgour's visit to Sierra Leone results from the decision taken at the CMAG meeting in London in March that five member countries send representatives to Sierra Leone. Along with Canada, these include: Ghana, Great Britain, Malaysia and Zimbabwe. The mission will demonstrate Commonwealth support for the democratically elected President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, newly returned to Sierra Leone with the assistance of the Economic Community of West African States.

"Canadians are delighted to see President Kabbah's safe return to Freetown," Secretary Kilgour said. "We remain concerned, however, that although Freetown is relatively safe, violence is continuing in some rural areas. This is hindering relief operations and prolonging the suffering of people who have already survived seven years of enormous hardship."

Immediately following the CMAG mission to Sierra Leone, Kilgour will lead a Canadian business development mission to Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Ghana, Mali and South Africa.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Sara Mohsin
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(613) 992-9404

Media Relations Office
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News Release

March 25, 1998

No. 70

AXWORTHY TO VISIT THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy will visit Skopje in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) from March 28 to 29. Mr. Axworthy will be the first Canadian Foreign Minister to visit FYROM.

"The region is at a turning point," said Minister Axworthy. "We are seeing positive developments such as the consolidation of democracy and economic reforms in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Unfortunately, the region is also a source of major concern as illustrated by recent events in Kosovo."

FYROM has a large Albanian population and it is feared that violence in Kosovo could have a negative impact in that country. The Minister added that in visiting Skopje, he hoped to demonstrate Canada's support for stability in the region.

"While Canada has already announced a number of measures to pressure Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to end the violence and to take positive steps in Kosovo, we also want to encourage neighbouring FYROM to continue its path to democracy and prosperity, and to build peaceful coexistence between ethnic groups," said Minister Axworthy.

While in Skopje, Minister Axworthy will meet with President Kiro Gligorov and Foreign Minister Blagoj Handziski, as well as with a number of ethnic-Albanian leaders from FYROM to discuss the situation in the region, and Canada's continuing support.

Following his visit to FYROM, Mr. Axworthy will travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to address the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on March 30.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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(613) 995-1851

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
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News Release

March 25, 1998

No. 71

FOREIGN MINISTER OF PERU TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Canada and Peru will take concrete steps to expand bilateral relations during the visit to Ottawa from March 25 to 26 of Eduardo Ferrero Costa, the Foreign Minister of Peru.

The two Ministers will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will establish more regular, high-level links between the countries, and will guide discussions on a wide variety of issues, such as regional security, criminal justice co-operation, trade liberalization, governance and human rights.

"South America is a priority region for deeper political, social and economic links," said Mr. Axworthy. "As the Santiago Summit nears, Canada is committed to working more closely with Peru on a range of regional issues."

Canada and Peru will also sign a declaration of intent to negotiate a treaty on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters. The treaty would assist bilateral co-operation in combating transnational crime.

Finally, Canada and Peru will sign a Joint Declaration on Cultural Patrimony highlighting the importance both place on the protection of their cultural heritage.

While in Ottawa, Mr. Ferrero will also meet: Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray; International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi; David Kilgour, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa); Bill Graham, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade; and Huguette Labelle, President of the Canadian International Development Agency.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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News Release

March 26, 1998

ERRATUM

In news release number 68, dated March 24, 1998, **KILGOUR TO LEAD CANADIAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO GUINEA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, TOGO, GHANA, MALI AND SOUTH AFRICA**, the following section should have read as:

The Member of Parliament for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Jean Augustine, who is actively involved in international and domestic social justice issues, will also participate. Augustine is a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee **on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Sub-Committee on Human Rights and International Development**, and the Chair for the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians **on Population and Development**.



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News Release

March 27, 1998

No. 72

Please find attached a letter sent today by International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi to:

Mr. Bernard Landry
Vice-Premier and Minister of State for the Economy and Finance
Province of Quebec

Mr. Sylvain Simard
Minister of International Relations
Province of Quebec

and

Ms. Louise Beaudoin
Minister of Culture and Communications
Province of Quebec

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman
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(613) 992-7332

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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(TRANSLATION)
March 27, 1998

Mr. Bernard Landry
Vice-Premier and
Minister of State for the Economy and Finance
12, Saint-Louis Street, 1st Floor
Québec City, Quebec
G1R 5L3

Mr. Sylvain Simard
Minister of International Relations
525, René-Lévesque Boulevard East
4th Floor
Québec City, Quebec
G1R 5H9

Ms. Louise Beaudoin
Minister of Culture and Communications
225 Grande Allée East
Bloc A, 1st Floor
Québec City, Quebec
G1R 5G5

Dear Vice-Premier and Ministers,

I have noted with interest your recent statements on the ongoing negotiations toward a potential Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), and I am pleased that the positions of the federal government and the government of Quebec continue to be so complementary.

Your colleague, Mr. Bertrand, and I were able to review these same MAI issues you raised in your statements at our meeting of federal and provincial trade ministers on February 19. At this meeting, I was again struck by how much our positions, and those of other provincial ministers, had in common.

I believe this is in large part the result of the extensive consultations that have been ongoing between federal and provincial officials since the beginning of the MAI negotiations. These consultations have ensured that provincial views were taken fully into account as Canada developed its negotiating positions. In fact, I understand that our officials held discussions yesterday on the latest developments at the OECD.

.../2

I would like to briefly reiterate the federal government's positions on the main points you have raised.

We are clearly in agreement that Canada's participation in these negotiations is in keeping with our role in the international community and our efforts to achieve clear and enforceable rules for international trade and investment. Canada does much better when there are transparent rules governing the international playing field on which our businesses compete. However, it should also be understood that the federal government will only sign an agreement that advances and protects our national interests — one that is of clear benefit to our country.

In my speech before the Centre for Law and Trade Policy on February 13, I restated the Government's bottom lines on the MAI. I have already sent a copy of this speech to Monsieur Bertrand, but I attach an additional copy here for your information. In summary, I underlined that:

- At both the national and provincial level, there must be ironclad reservations, with no rollback or standstill, that completely preserve our freedom to act in key areas, including health care, social programs, education, programs for Aboriginal Peoples and programs for minority groups. Canadian culture must also be completely exempted from any MAI provisions. None of these areas is negotiable.
- The interpretation of "expropriation" must make clear that legislative or regulatory action by government in the public interest is not expropriation requiring compensation, even if it has adverse profitability consequences for companies or investors.

As well, Canada will not accept an agreement that adversely affects our supply management regimes. We will take the necessary reservations to preserve investment measures specific to our agriculture interests. The same will apply to the management of our natural resources.

.../3

We will continue to consult with provincial governments and other interest groups in developing a strong position on labour and environment standards, and on this issue, as I noted at the federal-provincial meetings, I would welcome specific proposals from Quebec and the other provinces on how best to achieve this objective. Finally, we will continue to push for clear provisions to address extraterritorial application of laws on investment, such as the U.S. Helms-Burton Act.

With regard to culture, I concur with Quebec's position that we should try to obtain a general exemption for culture, so that culture is off the table for all countries. Indeed, we have been working with France and other like-minded countries to obtain such a general exemption, and will continue to do so. At the same time, if other countries insist on including their cultural industries in a MAI, we will ensure that this has no impact on Canadian culture by lodging a country-specific exemption. Either way, Canadian culture is simply not negotiable.

I take note of Ms. Beaudoin's concerns regarding the issue of a general exemption on culture versus a country-specific exemption. In my view, we need to achieve a balance in international trade agreements whereby countries can enjoy the benefits of freer trade in goods, services and investment, while at the same time, preserve and nurture their unique cultural identities.

The federal government will continue to work with Quebec, the other provinces, and Canada's cultural industries to ensure that our vital objectives of protecting and promoting Canadian culture are met.

Finally, you mentioned that Quebec believes that the MAI discussions should be taking place at the WTO. I believe that the OECD is providing a useful forum to pursue discussions on international investment issues and the progress we are making will be important to one day achieving a truly multilateral framework of investment rules at the WTO. Canada's ultimate objective is, indeed, that a MAI or similar framework of rules should eventually find a home at the WTO. I have already advocated this position publicly, and will raise this issue with my OECD Ministerial colleagues when we meet at the end of April.

As you are no doubt aware, it is now clear that negotiations will not conclude next month. Moreover, Canada has made it clear that we are not wedded to any particular timetable — we will only accept the right deal at the right time.

We will, therefore, have additional time to continue consultations and to ensure that any potential MAI fully serves Canada's national interests. I appreciate Quebec's continued support and constructive input in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Sergio Marchi

c.c. Mr. Roger Bertrand
Minister assigned to Industry and Commerce

March 29, 1998

No. 73

MINISTERIAL DELEGATION TO INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan and Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions) Jim Peterson will lead a delegation to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore from March 31 to April 3 to discuss the current economic situation in Southeast Asia.

"This initiative is particularly meaningful as it demonstrates Canada's commitment to assist its Asian partners in time of need," said Mr. Chan. "These countries are important for regional stability and global economic prosperity."

During their visit, Mr. Chan and Mr. Peterson will meet with government leaders and ministers to discuss economic reforms under way, and to address the socio-economic hardships that are affecting many people as a fallout from the economic crisis.

The delegation will be in Jakarta from March 31 to April 1, in Kuala Lumpur on April 2, and in Singapore on April 3. Members of the delegation include officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of Finance, the Canadian International Development Agency, and representatives from EDC (Export Development Corporation).

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Hilary Humphrey
Office of the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)
(613) 995-1852

Doug Secord
Office of the Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions)
(613) 992-6670

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

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March 30, 1998

No. 73A

COPPS TO LEAD CANADIAN DELEGATION AT UNESCO CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps will lead the Canadian delegation at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development in Stockholm from March 30 to April 2.

"Canada can make an important contribution to international cultural policy by building and proposing an approach for cultural policies that consider and incorporate human factors," said Minister Axworthy. "We have recently shown through the landmines process how big a difference Canada can make to the international agenda."

This conference brings together government officials and cultural leaders, artists, academics and media. The conference will develop an action plan for putting cultural policies on the international agenda. The conference will also include sessions for non-governmental organizations, as well as forums focussed on business, youth, and international co-operation.

"Cultural sovereignty is a priority for Canada. Culture is not simply an afterthought; it is central to our being and to our existence as a nation," said Minister Copps. "We want to raise the profile of cultural policy as an integral part of international policy debate. UNESCO's conference is a great opportunity to build closer links with key international players to ensure that the cultural dimension is fully integrated into our discussions on domestic and international trade and commerce."

Minister Copps will chair a session entitled "A Commitment to Pluralism," a component of one of the main themes, "The Challenges of Cultural Diversity." The panel will address such issues as sustaining social cohesion in a pluralistic society,



cultural production, and the use of communications technologies as a tool for social and economic development.

During her visit to Stockholm, Ms. Copps will meet with Mr. Claes Andersson, Finnish Minister of Culture, to sign a Canada-Finland Film and Television Co-Production Agreement. She will then go to Oslo to meet with Ms. Anne Enger Lahnstein, Norwegian Minister of Cultural Affairs, to sign the Canada-Norway Audiovisual Co-production Agreement. Ms. Copps will also meet with Chris Smith, the British Secretary of State for National Heritage, in Birmingham, to exchange views on international cultural policies and to reinforce cultural links with the United Kingdom.

Dr. Hedy Fry, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, will be alternate Head of the Canadian delegation, and a panelist in a session entitled "Culture for Children and Young People."

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Jacques Lefebvre
Office of the Minister of Canadian Heritage
(819) 997-7788

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

March 30, 1998

No. 74

**AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES NEW INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH INTERNSHIPS IN HUMAN RIGHTS**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced 50 new international youth internships in the field of human rights for 1998-1999. The announcement was made in an address by Minister Axworthy at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), which is meeting from March 16 to April 24 in Geneva.

"These 50 new internships are one of the ways Canada is marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," said Mr. Axworthy. "Through youth initiatives like this, decision makers of the future will be encouraged to continue to move human rights forward in the new millennium."

The organizations sponsoring the internships include: the United Nations Association in Canada, the Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights, the Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights, and Human Rights Internet. Interns will be placed with non-governmental and international organizations dealing with human rights. The candidates must have relevant backgrounds in areas such as law, international relations, international development, area studies, science, sociology, journalism, communications, and international business.

Approximately 665 internships for Canadian youth have been developed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to date, in co-operation with 57 Canadian organizations from the private and non-governmental sectors.

Prospective candidates may obtain more information regarding eligibility criteria by calling 1-800-559-2888 or by visiting the Department's Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under "Canadian Youth."

Funding for these projects was provided for in the Youth Employment Strategy announced in February 1997.



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A list of contacts for the participating organizations with a brief summary of the projects is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

International Youth Internship Projects in Human Rights

1998-1999

United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC) is managing the placement of 20 interns in UN and UN-related agencies in Canada and abroad, some of which are in the area of human rights. Interns are likely to have backgrounds in political science, international relations, sociology, journalism, communications and international business. Please contact:

Jacinthe Morin, Director of Finance and Administration
United Nations Association in Canada
130 Slater, Suite 900
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6E2
Tel. (613) 232-5751 ext.256
Fax: (613) 563-2455
E-mail: unac@magi.com

Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights (CLAIHR) has 12 internships for young Canadians with backgrounds in law to gain international experience with non-governmental organizations addressing human rights issues in the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Namibia, Bolivia, India and French Guyana. Please contact:

Susan Isaac, Co-ordinator
Canadian Lawyers Association for International Human Rights
204-251 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J6
Tel. (613) 233-0398
Fax: (613) 233-0671
E-mail: claihr@web.net

Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (CANADEM) has 20 internships where interns will be provided with field operations experience in a variety of UN activities encompassing a wide range of activities from human rights to peacebuilding and capacity building. CANADEM assesses and registers individuals for the Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights for international field placements. For more information contact:

Christine Vincent, Co-ordinator
Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (CANADEM)
1 Nicholas #1102
Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7
Tel. (613) 789-3328
Fax: (613) 789-6125
E-mail: canadem@ibm.net

Human Rights Internet will place 15 young unemployed/underemployed Canadian youth with human rights organizations around the world (Mongolia, Israel, Nepal, South Africa, Tunisia, The Gambia, and India) and in multilateral organizations. The interns will have backgrounds in international relations, international development, area studies, or law, and do placements in human rights advocacy, documentation, communications and other areas where they are able to make a substantial contribution to the work of the organization. For more information, please contact:

Johanna Myyra, Project Co-ordinator
Human Rights Internet
8 York Street, Suite 202
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5S6
Tel. (613) 789-7407 ext.2
Fax: (613) 789-7414
E-mail: interns@hri.ca

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News Release

March 30, 1998

No. 75

MARCHI MEETS WITH CHINESE LEADERS IN BEIJING AND ANNOUNCES CANADA-CHINA INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today took part in a series of bilateral meetings with senior Chinese leaders and announced the establishment of the Canada-China Interparliamentary Group.

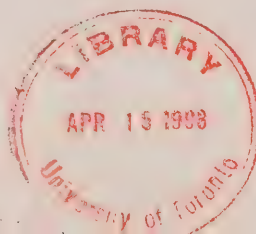
"I have been deeply impressed by the determination of Chinese leaders to embrace significant reforms in China's economy and society," said Minister Marchi. "I am convinced that these changes herald a better future not only for the Chinese people, but for Canada-China relations. I foresee a much broader participation in all aspects of this relationship by Canadians."

The Canada-China Interparliamentary group will provide a forum for dialogue between Canadian parliamentarians and members of the National People's Congress (NPC).

"This body will add a new dimension to our dialogue with the Chinese government on a range of social and economic issues," added Mr. Marchi. "By sharing information about our respective systems of government and key policy issues, we can pursue new avenues for co-operation together."

Mr. Marchi made the announcement in Beijing, following meetings with the Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, Li Peng; Li Lanqing, Executive Vice-Premier of the State Council; Shi Guangsheng, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation; and Dai Xianglong, Governor of the People's Bank of China. Canadian companies were represented at a number of these meetings.

The proposal to create the Canada-China Interparliamentary Group arose during discussions between Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Jiang Zemin at the time of the President's state visit to Canada in November 1997.

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This body will enable parliamentarians in Canada and members of the NPC to maintain ongoing contact and engage in discussions on a range of subjects. This includes parliamentary rules, the legislative process, the roles of the executive and legislative branches, and the role of committees in studying legislation and receiving public representation. International trade arrangements and welfare and social development policies will also be discussed. Annual meetings are planned for each country on a rotating basis.

Senator Jack Austin and Reg Alcock, Member of Parliament, will serve as interim chairs for the Senate and the House of Commons groups respectively. They were in attendance, together with Bob Mills, Member of Parliament, and Benoît Sauvageau, Member of Parliament, when Minister Marchi made the announcement in Beijing.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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March 31, 1998

No. 76

MARCHI VISIT TO BEIJING REFLECTS CANADA'S EXPANDING PRESENCE IN CHINA



Canada's International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced 13 new business initiatives today in Beijing, on the occasion of his first official trade mission to China. The Minister, who was accompanied by an 84-member business delegation, also took part in the opening of a Canadian Education Office and the launch of a silver coin to honour humanitarian Dr. Norman Bethune.

"Every day our embassies and consulates are helping Canadian companies make connections in China's developing markets. My mission supports this winning formula which, as the signings today show, is clearly getting results. We are seeing new, long-term investments, joint ventures and greater collaboration that is creating dynamic business partnerships," said Mr. Marchi.

The new business deals total in excess of \$300 million (commercial contracts and agreements), as well as \$48 million in investments. They involve such sectors as aerospace, construction, electric power, manufacturing, medical supplies, and education.

Four companies, SLM Software, W.J. Stelmaschuk and Associates Limited, and the law firms of Remedios and Company, and Blake, Cassels & Graydon, also announced plans to establish offices in Beijing. These firms join nearly 300 Canadian companies that have established a permanent presence in China.

"The very nature of Canada's trade relationship with China is changing and maturing," said Mr. Marchi. "We are seeing a significant increase in value-added Canadian exports and an expanding role for Canadian companies in China's services sector. Many Canadian companies are recognizing that by maintaining a permanent presence here, they can do business more effectively and more often."

Mr. Marchi also officially opened the new Canadian Education Office, located at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. This facility



will market Canadian educational services, such as high quality training, to Chinese companies and organizations.

"Canada offers world-class, competitively-priced education and training services. The new Canadian Education Office in Beijing is an impressive marketing and information resource for academic institutions across Canada," added Minister Marchi.

There are currently 3 500 Chinese students in Canada, not including short-term trainees. 1998 also marks the 25th anniversary of the Canada-China Scholars Exchange Program, which has produced about 400 Canadian and Chinese graduates who are now contributing their expertise to both countries in all fields.

On March 30, Mr. Marchi took part in the launch of a new sterling silver coin created by the Royal Canadian Mint to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Dr. Norman Bethune's arrival in China and his invention of the mobile surgery unit.

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A backgrounder on the deals announced today in Beijing is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

NEW CANADIAN BUSINESS INITIATIVES IN CHINA

CAE Electronics Ltd., Montréal, Quebec

CAE Electronics has signed a contract with the Henan Electric Power Corporation (HEPC) for the supply of an automated hydro-electric dispatching system. This new system is scheduled for completion in 1999 and will increase the safety, efficiency and reliability of Henan province's rapidly developing power network. The system will be the basis for additional applications as the electric power industry in China's inner regions undergoes commercialization.

Canada-China Power Inc., Montréal, Quebec

The Canadian International Development Agency is providing \$200 000 in financial support to enable Canada-China Power Inc. (CCPI) and the Ministry of Water Resources to commence a review of foreign direct investment policies and regulations in China's hydro power sector. Recommendations resulting from this exercise will be incorporated into a pilot hydro project. The new policy framework emerging from this partnership is intended to accelerate the development of small and medium-sized hydro projects, creating new opportunities for private sector involvement.

Canadian Aerospace Group, Burlington, Ontario

Canadian Aerospace Group and the Harbin Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation, China, signed a contract to purchase the first two Y12 aircraft frames. The contract is part of a Memorandum of Agreement to purchase a total of 50 Y12 aircraft airframes in three years, with an option for an additional 150. The 19-seat regional aircraft will be manufactured in Harbin, China and sent to Canada for completion and sale by Panda Aircraft Corporation, a subsidiary of Canadian Aerospace Group located in North Bay, Ontario. Under the terms of this agreement, Canada will provide value-added manufacturing and equipment. Sikorsky Aircraft and Pratt & Whitney will also be partners in this project. The total commercial benefits derived from this deal for both Canada and China are expected to exceed \$800 million over the next ten years.

Architects Crang & Boake Inc., Don Mills, Ontario

Architects Crang and Boake Inc. has signed today, with the Chongqing Fairy Ocean Enterprise Co. Ltd., a \$2.4 million contract for the architectural design of the Chongqing Fairy Ocean Hotel. The Beijing Institute of Architectural Design and Research will act as the sub-designer for this project. The Chongqing Fairy Ocean Hotel project, valued at \$140 million, will be the first five-star hotel in Chongqing.

Davey International Inc., Stoney Creek, Ontario

Davey International Inc. and Beijing Airport International Warehousing Co. Ltd. have signed a \$4.6 million contract to build the third phase of the Beijing Airport International Warehouse. The construction of this two-storey 40 000 square metre air cargo handling facility will make use of Davey's proven expertise in pre-engineered metal building systems. This project, located in the Beijing Airport Industrial Zone, is the latest addition to the extensive number of metal buildings Davey has constructed in China since 1992.

Fulton Windows, Mississauga, Ontario

Fulton Windows has signed a \$3.25 million contract with the Tiantai Group to export FULWAL curtainwall, a type of glass exterior, for the Taxation Mansion, a 28-storey building located in Qingdao, Shandong Province. This site is the first of three buildings under development by the Tiantai Group on the seaside site of the Tiantai Plaza in Qingdao. Fulton Windows adds this contract to a long list of projects undertaken in China, including the Hong Kong Convention Centre.

Madawaska Doors Inc., Bolton, Ontario

Madawaska Doors Inc. has signed a letter of intent with the Tianhai Group Yada Industry Co. of Tianjin to work towards establishing a joint venture processing/manufacturing plant in Tianjin, China. The plant will make use of Madawaska Doors Inc.'s technology and expertise to produce wood doors, frames and mouldings using raw material imported from Canada. The initial investment is expected to be in the range of \$1 million. However, the long-term investment could surpass \$6 million.

Mobb Medical Ltd., North York, Ontario

Mobb Medical Ltd. has signed a \$2.1 million contract for the establishment of a new 20 000-square foot manufacturing and storage facility in Beijing for the Canada Angel Hospital Uniform (Beijing) Co. Ltd. The new plant will manufacture hospital uniforms and shoes, as well as dental hygiene products. Affiliated with Mobb Medical Ltd., Canada Angel Hospital Uniform (Beijing) Co. Ltd. was established in 1994 to provide hospitals across China with uniforms, supplies and equipment.

Panda North American Ventures Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia

Panda North American Ventures Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Daqing Municipal Government to build and operate a Canadian high school in Daqing, a city in northeast China. This facility will be the first foreign school in Daqing, with a capacity of 1 500 students. Under this agreement, the government of Daqing will invest approximately \$1.2 million for the construction of a small hotel in Vancouver.

SLM Software, Toronto, Ontario

SLM Software has announced the opening of their Beijing Office. SLM provides software solutions to banking institutions, and is currently involved in a contract with the Bank of China for the computerization of the financial information system and for the establishment of bank and credit card software infrastructure.

Unitron Industries Ltd., Timberlea, Nova Scotia and AuDigital Hearing Care and Technologies Co. Ltd., Chengdu, Sichuan, China
 Unitron Industries Ltd., a leading hearing instrument manufacturer in Canada, and AuDigital Hearing Care and Technologies Co. Ltd., a wholly owned Canadian enterprise based in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China, have entered into a joint venture agreement to manufacture high-tech hearing aids in China. Unitron will provide technical support and expertise to AuDigital, which will produce all styles of hearing aids for the Chinese market. This is the first large-scale project involving a leading Canadian hearing aid company in China.

W.J. Stelmaschuck and Associates Ltd., Pitt Meadows, British Columbia

W.J. Stelmaschuck and Associates Ltd. announced a construction project and plans to establish a children's entertainment facility, valued at \$40 million and \$2.5 million respectively. W.J. Stelmaschuck and Associates Ltd. also announced the establishment of reciprocal trade offices in Beijing, China, and Maple Ridge, British Columbia. Operating under the auspices of the Government of the Dongcheng District of Beijing, these offices will promote business deals between private sector entities in China and North America.

Yes Canada Education Services Inc., Penticton, British Columbia

Yes Canada Education Services Inc. has signed an agreement with Guangdong Education Services of International Exchanges and Beijing Second Languages University. The agreement offers Chinese students the possibility of pursuing MBA and post-secondary technology studies in Ottawa. Two hundred students have been admitted for the 1998-1999 school year. The value of this agreement is estimated at \$5.6 million in its first year.

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March 31, 1998

No. 77

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO PROVIDE BILATERAL SUPPORT PACKAGE TO INDONESIA

The Government of Canada today announced it will provide \$280 million as part of a support package to Indonesia to address the hardships its people have suffered as a result of the economic crisis affecting the country. The announcement was made on the occasion of the visit to Indonesia by Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan and Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions) Jim Peterson, who are in Jakarta to discuss humanitarian and economic needs with President Soeharto and Indonesian ministers. They are accompanied by a team of officials and experts.

"Indonesia is confronting a food shortage caused by drought, increased prices, distribution difficulties, and a limited ability to import essential foodstuffs," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Canadian assistance should help to address the human side of the economic crisis."

"The main objectives of this initiative are to alleviate the suffering of the Indonesian people, to support implementation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program, and to address Canadian interests in Indonesia," said Mr. Chan. "Together, we can work to assist our Asian partners in their efforts to overcome the economic turmoil taking place in the region."

The support package will include \$250 million in agricultural export credit guarantees managed by the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). An additional \$20 million will be provided in export credits for essential imports support from EDC (Export Development Corporation) under the Canada Account.

"The Canadian contribution serves to bolster Indonesia's efforts to address the crisis by reinforcing the multilateral initiative led by the IMF," said International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi. "EDC will continue to consider business opportunities in Indonesia using its normal commercial criteria."



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"This initiative follows Canada's efforts at the multilateral and bilateral levels to help Indonesia deal with the current economic crisis," said Jim Peterson. "The IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and bilateral donors provided US\$41.2 billion in assistance to Indonesia in response to the financial crisis in November 1997."

Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie, added that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will respond with more than \$9 million in food aid and humanitarian assistance to requests from multilateral and local aid organizations in Indonesia. CIDA will supplement its existing program, designed to help the country in the areas of private sector and human resources development, governance and human rights, and environment, with special technical assistance related to the financial crisis.

The Canadian support package is the result of an initiative involving several government organizations, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of Finance, the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the CWB, EDC and CIDA.

Canada contributed \$1 million last December in bilateral food aid to assist the Indonesian people in Irian Jaya suffering from drought. Earlier this month, Canada provided an additional \$50 000 for a food program in East Timor. The Canadian government also indicated that it is prepared to work in partnership with Indonesia and other affected countries to combat the forest fire problem in the region.

- 30 -

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NEWS RELEASE

April 1, 1998

No. 78

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara A. Otunnu, will visit Canada from April 1 to 2 to raise awareness about the plight of children and armed conflict.

This will be Mr. Otunnu's first official visit to Canada since his appointment by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on September 1, 1997, as Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

"Canada supports Mr. Otunnu's role as an advocate to raise awareness of the issue of children and armed conflict," said Minister Axworthy. "We will continue to work with Mr. Otunnu toward the common goal of eliminating the participation of children in armed conflict."

Minister Axworthy and Mr. Otunnu will discuss Canada's role in focussing world attention on the plight of children in armed conflict.

Mr. Otunnu will meet with the Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie, Diane Marleau, the Minister of National Defence, Art Eggleton, and the Secretary of State (Children and Youth), Ethel Blondin-Andrew, as well as with representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations active in this issue.

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News Release

April 2, 1998

No. 79

NEW CANADIAN BUSINESS DEALS ADVANCE CANADA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH SHANGHAI

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi marked the 90th anniversary of Canada's trade presence in Shanghai with three new business deals valued at over \$480 million. The Minister and his Canadian business delegation are on the fourth day of a nine-day trip to China and Hong Kong.

"This visit brings new momentum to Canada's long history of doing business in Shanghai, where opportunities for Canadian firms are growing at an exponential rate," said Mr. Marchi. "The new business deals signed today profile Canadian value-added expertise, particularly in Canada's aerospace industry, and benefit both the Canadian and Chinese economies. Canadian companies here are making the kind of contacts that are very beneficial to business development in this region."

These business initiatives involve construction and the aerospace industry, specifically, aircraft, avionics and radar systems. Also at today's signings, the law firm of Bull, Housser & Tupper announced the opening of a new law office in Shanghai.

On April 1, 1998, Minister Marchi led members of the business delegation on a visit to Shanghai's Canadian-designed stock exchange and met with the Mayor of Shanghai, and the Vice-Governor of the Shanghai Branch of the People's Bank of China. Today, Mr. Marchi participated with Canadian company representatives at numerous business meetings.

China is Canada's third-largest trading partner, with Shanghai accounting for 25 percent of two-way trade between the two countries. Minister Marchi leaves today for Hong Kong, the third and final leg of his trade mission.

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A backgrounder on the business deals is attached.



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SHANGHAI BUSINESS INITIATIVES

Canadian Aerospace Group (CAG), Burlington, Ontario

Canadian Aerospace Group has signed a major contract with Jiangxi Hongdu Aviation Industry Group to co-produce and market agricultural aircraft for worldwide sales. Under the agreement, Hongdu will produce under licence, CAG's Windeagle, Monitor, and Timberwolf aircrafts. In Canada, CAG will add state-of-the-art composites such as engines, avionics, and electronics and be responsible for international marketing. This deal marks the first time aircraft built in China will be certified by the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority. The two companies also signed an agreement for the completion and sale of the Hongdu line of motorcycles, a product in growing demand in China. The total value of this deal is an estimated \$300 million, with Canadian content amounting to 50 percent or \$150 million.

Easy Field Consultants (Canada) Limited, Markham, Ontario

Easy Field Consultants (Canada) Limited has signed an agreement with Shanghai Nanshi Residence Construction Company (SNSRS) to build new, affordable housing in the Nanshi region of Shanghai. Using Canadian technology, this project combines construction materials from both Canadian and Chinese sources. When completed, this \$168 million project is expected to generate \$50 million in Canadian exports.

Raytheon Canada Limited, Waterloo, Ontario

Raytheon Canada Limited has signed two contracts with the Civil Aviation Administration of China to supply radar systems for air traffic control at Shanghai and Hangzhou airports. The two contracts are valued at a total of over \$12 million. As an established worldwide supplier of air traffic control radar systems, Raytheon has been doing business in China since 1994. Over half of the value of this deal is Canadian content.

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News Release

April 2, 1998

No. 80

MARCHI WELCOMES NEW SPONSOR OF THE CANADA EXPORT AWARDS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today officially welcomed Teleglobe Inc. as a new sponsor of the 1998 Canada Export Awards.

Under the banner "Partners in Trade," Teleglobe joins two other organizations well known for their support of Canadian exporters, CIBC and EDC (Export Development Corporation), as official sponsors of the 16-year-old awards program.

"The collaborative efforts between government and the private sector is testimony to the Team Canada approach to international trade," said Minister Marchi. "It is with great pleasure that the Department welcomes the participation of Teleglobe Inc. in acknowledging the success of Canadian exporters."

"As a global leader in international telecommunications, we understand the challenge for Canadian companies to successfully export their products and services in today's competitive environment," said Richard Gordon, Vice-President, Sales and Marketing. "Teleglobe is proud to recognize these companies' contribution to the Canadian economy and their success in the international marketplace."

Teleglobe's global network includes submarine cable and satellite facilities linking North America with over 240 countries and territories to meet the global connectivity needs of carriers around the world.

The Canada Export Awards are presented annually by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to Canadian companies that have excelled in exporting their products and services to countries throughout the world.



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This year's recipients will be announced at a special ceremony in Calgary, Alberta, on October 5, 1998, in conjunction with the third annual meeting of the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada.

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

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News Release

April 3, 1998

NO 80

ERRATUM

In news release number 80, dated April 2, 1998, **MARCHI WELCOMES NEW SPONSOR OF THE CANADA EXPORT AWARDS**, the following section should have read as:

"As a global leader in international telecommunications, we understand the challenge for Canadian companies to successfully export their products and services in today's competitive environment," said **Richard Gendron, Vice-President, Sales and Marketing, Business Services, Teleglobe Communications Services Inc.** "Teleglobe is proud to recognize these companies' contribution to the Canadian economy and their success in the international marketplace."

-30-

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News Release

April 2, 1998

No. 81

CANADA TO SUPPORT PROJECTS FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie, Diane Marleau, today announced that Canada will support four projects to protect children in armed conflict. The announcement was made following meetings in Ottawa with the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu.

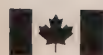
These projects are aimed at demobilizing child soldiers and reintegrating them into civil society.

According to a recent United Nations study, child soldiers are described as boys and girls with weapons, as well as children who "follow or serve armies" as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies, and as sexual slaves.

"The use of children as soldiers has escalated worldwide due to the advent of light weapons technology, the rise of intrastate conflict, and the increase in guerrilla and rebel forces," said Mr. Axworthy. "However, those forms of exploitation or deplorable situations that deprive children of their right to fully realize their mental and physical potential, and expose them to hazardous and dangerous situations, contravene a basic human right."

Canada has actively supported working groups established by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to elaborate two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: One on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, and the other on children in situations of armed conflict.

"Over the past decade, civil conflicts have led to the deaths of an estimated two million children, four to five million children have been disabled, and more than a million have been orphaned or separated from their parents," said Madame Marleau. "In supporting these initiatives announced today, Canada seeks to



protect these children from abuse, exploitation, and violence by giving them a chance at life."

Canada will support four projects worth \$650 000 to help child soldiers in Liberia, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (ex-Zaïre).

The projects announced today include:

- A project in northern Uganda, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will assist children abducted by rebel forces. It is estimated that between 5 000 and 8 000 children have been abducted. The main objectives are to stop the abduction of children; to support the advocacy work under way for the release of the abducted children; and to facilitate the tracing and resettlement of children who manage to escape captivity. CIDA's contribution is \$200 000.
- A project in Liberia, supported by CIDA, targets 800 child soldiers. Its aim is to demobilize and reintegrate child soldiers into their families and their communities by providing financial and technical support such as skills and literacy training. It will also help to assess the psychological condition of the children, support their psychological recovery, and rebuild their self-confidence for reintegration into civil society. CIDA's contribution is \$200 000.
- A project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (ex-Zaïre), supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), will encourage and assist national and provincial authority to demobilize 1 500 child soldiers, ages nine to sixteen, and to reintegrate them into their families and civil society. It will also help to reinforce existing mechanisms for allowing demobilized children to complete their primary school studies, augmented by local and professional skills training. DFAIT's contribution is \$200 000.
- A project funded by DFAIT to support a coalition of international non-governmental organizations, Child Soldiers Coalition, in its effort to raise awareness of young child combatants in armed conflict. DFAIT's contribution is \$50 000.

Canada supports the efforts of Mr. Otunnu to act as an advocate for children in situations of armed conflict. Canada has been supporting children in areas of conflict for many years with clean water, food, health care, and shelter.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

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April 3, 1998

No. 82

CANADIAN PEACEKEEPERS TO TAKE PART IN UN MISSION FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and National Defence Minister Art Eggleton announced today that Canada will take part in a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Central African Republic (CAR). In response to a request from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Canada will send approximately 45 Canadian Forces personnel to provide the communications element for the Mission des Nations unies en République centrafricaine (MINURCA).

"The UN has requested that Canada play a key role in its new operation in the Central African Republic," said Mr. Axworthy. "We are ready to work closely with the UN and with our African partners. MINURCA affirms the essential role of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security, and promotes greater stability throughout the region."

MINURCA is a new UN peacekeeping operation, approved unanimously by the Security Council on March 27, 1998. It is the first new United Nations peacekeeping operation in two years, and the first in Africa in four years. The UN will deploy up to 1350 soldiers, civilian police and officials. The initial three-month mandate begins April 15, 1998, with the possibility of an extension. MINURCA will have military contingents from Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Togo, as well as Canada.

"I am very pleased that the Canadian Forces will take part in MINURCA," said Mr. Eggleton. "The Canadian Forces have played an active role in United Nations peacekeeping efforts for more than 40 years, and their peacekeeping expertise is second to none. I am confident that they will make a valuable contribution to peace and security in the Central African Republic."

The mandate of MINURCA is mainly to assist the government of the CAR in maintaining security in and around the capital city, Bangui. MINURCA will also be responsible for ensuring the safety of UN personnel, providing police training and disposing of the surrendered weapons of demobilizing factions.



The Canadian Forces communications personnel are from Canadian Forces Base Valcartier near Québec City. They are expected to depart from Canada during the week of April 15, 1998.

- 30 -

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News Release

April 3, 1998

No. 83

CHAN TO DISCUSS REGIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan will visit the Philippines from April 7 to 8 to discuss the impact of the current Asian economic crisis on the Philippines and the region.

"Canada and its Asian partners have a mutual interest in sustained regional growth through increased trade, investment and economic co-operation," said Mr. Chan. "Over the past few years, bilateral relations between Canada and the Philippines have grown increasingly strong. By working in partnership with countries affected by the economic crisis, such as the Philippines, we hope to encourage the economic and social recovery of the region."

Mr. Chan will meet with the Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Leonides T. Caday, the Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and Director General of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Cielito F. Habito, and the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mitsuo Sato. Several issues will be discussed including the social impact of the Asian economic crisis on the region and ways of integrating Canadian initiatives with ADB programs.

Mr. Chan's visit follows a trip to Pakistan from April 3 to 6, where he is accompanying Governor General Romeo LeBlanc and leading a Canadian business delegation. Mr. Chan also led a delegation to Indonesia from March 31 to April 1, where he met with ministers and government officials to discuss that country's current economic situation.

- 30 -

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News Release

April 3, 1998

No. 84

CANADIAN TRADE MISSION TO CHINA WRAPS UP WITH ALMOST \$800 MILLION IN NEW BUSINESS DEALS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi completed the final leg of a trade mission to China in Hong Kong today, where he witnessed the signing of seven new business deals and expressed Canada's confidence in Hong Kong's future. Over the course of the nine-day mission, a total of almost \$800 million in new business deals were signed in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

"This mission has been about helping Canadian businesses make a name for themselves in China and Hong Kong and exploring the exceptional opportunities that exist here," said Minister Marchi. "Canadian companies are competitive, export-ready and dedicated to this crucial market. The results have exceeded our expectations and show Canada's determination to be a significant player in this region."

In Hong Kong, Mr. Marchi met with Mr. Tung Chee Hwa, Chief Executive for Hong Kong, Mrs. Anson Chan, Chief Secretary for the Administration of the Hong Kong SAR Government, and Mr. Martin Lee, Chairman of the Democratic Party. He also held talks on trade matters with Trade and Industry Secretary Chau Tak-hay, and delivered a keynote address to the Board of Governors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

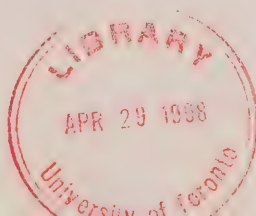
"In Hong Kong our goal has been to promote Canadian business and investment, as well as to use these markets as a gateway to China," said Minister Marchi. "Hong Kong remains strong, vibrant and is clearly weathering the current economic turmoil in Asia well. I am also pleased to see that Hong Kong is maintaining its own economic system and special character, while benefiting from its long-standing relationship with China."

At a ceremony today, \$15 million in new business contracts and \$4 million in Letters of Intent were signed, involving a range of products and services such as windows for a new high rise building, Internet recruiting services, waste water treatment equipment and telecommunications and equipment services.



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The Minister witnessed the official opening of the Hong Kong office of the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC), which will promote Canada as a key tourism destination. Mr. Marchi also took part in a roundtable on education marketing, and met with 22 Canadian alumni associations active in Hong Kong.

- 30 -

A backgrounder on the business deals and initiatives signed is attached.

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HONG KONG BUSINESS SIGNINGS AND INITIATIVES

Fulton Windows, Mississauga, Ontario

Fulton Windows has signed a \$1.5 million Letter of Intent with Hong Kong-based United Reliance Corporation to supply and install curtainwall, a glass building exterior, and skylights at Tung Chung Station, the last link on the rapid transit system to the new Chek Lap Kok Airport on Lantau Island. The two companies previously collaborated on a project to supply and install glass and aluminium facing for the Hong Kong Convention Centre and on several other construction projects in the region.

Newbridge Networks, Kanata, Ontario

Newbridge Networks has signed a \$500 000 contract with New World Telephone of Hong Kong, to supply switches and routers for a new asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network at the telecommunications company's headquarters in Hong Kong. The network will be the first standards-based ATM network in Hong Kong, and will connect more than 1000 people across six floors of the New World Telephone building and allow voice, data and video images to be transmitted at a rapid speed.

Northern Telecom, Mississauga, Ontario

Nortel (Northern Telecom) has signed a contract to supply ATM technology to CM Telecom Group, the largest paging operator in China. This deal marks the first commercial sale of the Magellan Passport ATM-based enterprise network switches in China, and will boost the performance of the Group's nation-wide paging network in mainland China. The installation of the Nortel ATM network is expected to be completed in mid-1998.

Nortel has had significant success in providing state-of-the-art switches to expanding telecommunications companies in Hong Kong and mainland China. Recent sales to CM Telecom Group and the three new telephone companies in Hong Kong exceed \$10 million.

President's Choice International, Toronto, Ontario

President's Choice International has signed an exclusive deal to sell President's Choice packaged grocery products to Park'N Shop, Hong Kong's second largest grocery store chain. This deal, valued at an estimated \$13 million over the next three years, marks the first time a major Canadian brand of packaged food products will be available on the shelves of a major Hong Kong retailer.

Recruitex Technologies Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia

Recruitex Technologies Inc. has signed a contract with Islemount Market Development Ltd. (IMD) for the distribution of Internet products in Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Recruitex Technologies Asia Limited will undertake this distribution role.

Teleglobe Canada, Montréal, Quebec

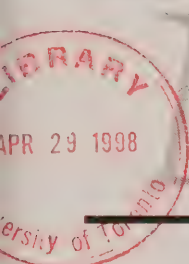
Teleglobe Canada has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an apprenticeship program for recent graduates of seven Hong Kong universities to receive on-the-job training at Teleglobe's offices in North America.

Trojan Technologies, London, Ontario

Trojan Technologies has signed a Letter of Intent to supply a UV disinfection system, which will be installed in the Shek Wu Hui sewage treatment plant in Hong Kong. The total value of this deal is \$4 million.

Canadian Tourism Commission, Ottawa, Ontario

The Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) officially opened a permanent office in Hong Kong to promote Canada as a tourism destination. The new office will be located at the Canadian Consulate General in Hong Kong and will employ two full-time staff. In 1996, tourism from Hong Kong generated \$185 million in revenues in Canada. Canada received 170 000 visitors from Hong Kong in 1997.



News Release

April 3, 1998

No. 85

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA OUTLINES NEW MEASURES TO COMBAT EXPLOITIVE CHILD LABOUR

The Government of Canada today announced new actions it would take with key multilateral organizations to help eliminate the most abusive forms of child labour.

These actions are outlined in the Government's response to the report by the House of Commons Subcommittee on Sustainable Human Development entitled *Ending Child Labour Exploitation - A Canadian Agenda for Action on Global Challenges*. The response was tabled yesterday by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Labour Minister Lawrence MacAulay, and Minister for International Co-operation and la Francophonie, Diane Marleau.

"We are in general agreement with the Subcommittee's report. In fact, we have already carried out a number of the recommended measures," said Mr. Axworthy. "These initiatives are consistent with our commitment to children's rights as outlined in the Speech from the Throne."

In its response, the Government sets out its strategy to combat child labour exploitation and outlines the ways it is addressing the issue of the most extreme forms of child labour. Since the report was first tabled in February 1997, the Government has established the Child Labour Challenge Fund, it has adopted legislation to allow for the prosecution of Canadian citizens and permanent residents who engage in exploitive sexual activities with children while abroad, it participated in the Oslo Child Labour Conference, and it has supported the work of UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu.

Canada's strategy is in keeping with its commitment under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and supports the efforts of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to develop a Convention on the most extreme forms of child labour by 1999.

The Labour Program of Human Resources Development Canada will contribute \$500 000 through the Canadian International Development Agency to fund the work of the ILO's Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labour (SIMPOC). This



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group will gather critical data on child labour in about 40 countries.

"The ILO plays a lead role in developing new ways of collecting data on child labour," said Mr. MacAulay. "Canada is proud to be part of this project. It will provide governments, non-governmental organizations and other partners with the information needed to develop effective policies and programs to fight child labour."

Minister Marleau and Minister Axworthy will explore partnerships with developing countries to combat child labour and develop long-term solutions for this problem.

"Canada believes that solutions to exploitive child labour lie in co-operation based on reducing poverty and meeting basic human needs," said Madame Marleau. "Our partnerships with developing countries are critical to supporting good governance, which, in turn, means improved regulations on the employment of children."

The ILO estimates that some 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working around the world.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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André Doren
Office of the Minister for International Co-operation and
Minister responsible for la Francophonie
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Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM ON CHILD LABOUR

The Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labour (SIMPOC) is an international project designed to gather data on child labour in about 40 countries. The project is sponsored by the International Labour Organization (ILO) through its International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

One of the main obstacles in the fight against child labour is the lack of reliable data, especially in the informal sectors, domestic work and the sex trade. The ILO estimates that there are 250 million working children, nearly half of whom are between the ages of 5 and 14 and work full-time. Often, these children work in dangerous, exploitive environments that hurt their health, their education and their normal development. However, data are sparse and not necessarily reliable. SIMPOC will help bring the picture into clearer focus.

Through SIMPOC, the ILO will study the scale, distribution, characteristics and causes of child labour, as well as the kinds of industries where it is found. The study will assist governments, non-governmental organizations and labour in determining the effectiveness of child labour policies and programs, and will help in the design of new measures to combat child labour. The ILO will publish a child labour trend report every two years.

Some of the data to be gathered include the following:

- demographic and socio-economic characteristics of child workers;
- workplace conditions and wages;
- the reasons that children work; and
- socio-economic data about their parents, as well as their perceptions of child labour.

SIMPOC is a five-year project to which Canada is contributing \$500 000 for the fiscal year 1997/1998.

The ILO and the United Nations have taken a number of steps to combat child labour: ILO member states have endorsed some 20 international instruments to protect children from work. In 1973, the ILO adopted the Minimum Age Convention and the Minimum Age Recommendation. In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes an article protecting children from economic exploitation. In the early 1990s, the ILO launched IPEC, which is turning the results

of ILO projects into practical action. IPEC now runs some 700 projects around the world. The International Labour Conference, to be held in Geneva in June 1998, will define new standards that would oblige member states to "suppress immediately all extreme forms of child labour." The goal is formal adoption of this new instrument sometime in 1999.

The ILO is the only international body where government, worker and employer representatives can meet on equal footing to discuss labour issues such as international labour standards and workplace equality for women. The ILO is recognized as the international organization responsible for the promotion of core labour standards, and is the guardian and promoter of 400 international conventions and recommendations that together make up the International Labour Code. Founded in 1919, and now a specialized agency of the United Nations, the ILO today has 174 member states.

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News Release

April 6, 1998

No. 86

MARCHI WELCOMES AEROSTAR SETTLEMENT

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the significant progress made toward resolution of the commercial dispute between IMP Group Ltd. of Halifax and its Russian partners in the Moscow Aerostar Hotel.

"I am very pleased that the parties have closed this chapter in their dispute," said Mr. Marchi. "Aeroflot's settlement payment is good news for the rule of law, good news for the sanctity of contracts, and good news for the Russian business environment."

On April 3, Aeroflot-Russian International Airlines completed payment to IMP of the full amount of the Final Arbitral Award of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce's Arbitration Institute awarded on November 4, 1997. This award was enforceable in all countries that adhere to the United Nations Convention for the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, including Canada and Russia.

Before payment of this award, litigation resulting from non-payment had led to the seizure of an Aeroflot aircraft last week in Montréal under an enforcement order granted by the Quebec Superior Court.

"We realize that there is still work to do, in the Russian court system and elsewhere, in order to bring about full resolution," said Mr. Marchi. "We call on the parties to do it quickly. We want to see them take the Aerostar to new successes."

Despite this significant dispute, the Canada-Russia economic relationship continues to grow. Last year alone, our two-way trade reached \$1 billion. Canadian direct investment in Russia now stands at \$700 million, with new investments expected this year.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

April 6, 1998

No. 87

CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRIVE IN CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Lucienne Robillard, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and MP for Westmount-Ville-Marie, today announced that the first group of political prisoners released by Cuban authorities will arrive in Canada tonight, accompanied by their dependants. The remaining Cuban prisoners bound for Canada are expected to arrive in the country over the coming weeks.

This follows a request from the Cuban government that Canada accept a number of Cuban prisoners, whose release from prison had been requested by Pope John Paul II during his January visit to Cuba.

"These are specific cases where Canada could obtain the freedom of individuals by allowing those persons to come to Canada," said Minister Axworthy. "We are able to take this humanitarian action because of Canada's policy of constructive engagement with Cuba, and the framework for co-operation laid out in the January 1997 Canada-Cuba Joint Declaration."

In February, in response to a list of political and common prisoners presented by the Vatican, Cuban authorities agreed that some 300 prisoners would be released. Over 100 political prisoners were identified in this total. On February 26, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien indicated that Canada was prepared to take up to 19 prisoners who would not otherwise have been released, subject to standard medical and security checks. Among them, 11 prisoners successfully passed the checks, 3 have been accepted under ministerial permits and 5 others will not be admitted to Canada, due to the nature of the acts for which they are in prison.

"Accepting these Cuban prisoners falls well within Canada's traditional humanitarian objectives, whether it is working for their freedom or accepting them in Canada with their immediate families," said Minister Robillard. As for those whom Canada had to refuse, the Minister said that it was only with the greatest care and compassion that each decision was taken, keeping in mind

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responsibility for the safety and health of Canadians, and Canada's obligations under international treaties.

Each of the Cuban prisoners involved has verified independently his or her desire to leave for Canada.

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A backgrounder listing the prisoners scheduled to arrive in Canada tonight is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Eric Tetrault
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
(613) 791-3513
(613) 953-1064

René Mercier
Public Affairs
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
(613) 941-7042

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office
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(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site:
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Backgrounder

CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ACCEPTED IN CANADA IN APRIL 1998

Jose Antonio RODRIGUEZ Santana (No dependants)

Luis Alberto FERRANDIZ Alfaro (Spouse and three children)

Alberto Joaquin AGUILERA Guevara (No dependants)

Edilberto DEL TORO Argota (Spouse and two children)

Raul AYARDE Herrera (Spouse and child may accompany)

Adriano GONZALEZ Marichal (Spouse and two children)

Dr Omar DEL POZO Marrero (*Speaks English and French*) (Spouse and child)

Victor Reynaldo INFANTE Estrada (*Speaks English*) (No dependants)

Armando ALONSO Romero (*Speaks English*) (No accompanying dependants)

Rene PORTELLES Hernandez (Spouse and child)

Marcos Antonio HERNANDEZ Garcia (Accompanied by daughter)

Pedro Marcelino DE LA ROSA Guerra (No accompanying dependants)

Pedro Salvador BENITO Rodriguez (Spouse and four children may accompany)

Rosalina GONZALEZ Lafita (No accompanying dependants)

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News Release

April 7, 1998

No. 88

EDC SIGNS FINANCING PROTOCOL WITH UKRAINE

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the signing of a protocol between EDC (Export Development Corporation) and the National Agency of Ukraine for Development and European Integration. The protocol, which was signed by Roman Shpek, head of the Agency, and A.Ian Gillespie, President and CEO of EDC, in the presence of Minister Marchi, will provide a mechanism to facilitate EDC's financing activities in Ukraine.

"Today's signing marks an important day in Canada-Ukraine business relations," said Mr. Marchi. "Not only will this financing unlock some of the systemic barriers to Canadian businesses, but it will help Ukraine pursue a concerted economic and market reform."

"This protocol will supplement EDC's existing \$US20 million line of credit with the State Export-Import Bank of Ukraine," said Mr. Gillespie. "It also further supports Canadian exporters to do business in this market."

Canada's exports to Ukraine in 1997 were \$25.9 million. Export financing from EDC is expected to contribute to the growth of trade in the future.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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News Release

April 15, 1998

No. 89

MARKET ACCESS REPORT OUTLINES CANADA'S TRADE PRIORITIES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today released the government's report on Canada's priorities for improving access to foreign markets for Canadian businesses.

"This report shows just how hard we are working to open doors to the global market for Canadian companies," said Mr. Marchi. "For companies to succeed, trade promotion and trade policy must work hand in hand."

Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities - 1998 describes how Canada is seeking improved access for goods, services and investments in key markets including the United States. The report also outlines multilateral, regional and bilateral trade liberalization initiatives.

"In 1997, Canadian business had better access to world markets as a result of the important trade liberalization work that took place in multilateral forums," said Mr. Marchi. "However, there is still a long way to go. The world may indeed be a global village but, from a trade perspective, there are still neighbourhoods we cannot enter, streets we cannot travel and stores where we cannot sell our goods."

The report notes important market access successes for Canada in 1997, which include a financial services agreement, the Information Technology Agreement, and the Agreement on Basic Telecommunications negotiated at the WTO. These agreements give Canadian companies important new opportunities in the world market.

As well, Canada will continue to make use of the WTO dispute settlement system in an effort to resolve some existing trade disputes with other countries. The government will pursue other initiatives to deal with trade and investment barriers erected by Canada's trading partners.



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Improving market access is a key element of Canada's strategy for assisting Canadian exporters and investors in foreign markets. Market access is one of the government's three priorities for international trade; the other two are trade and development promotion, and investment promotion.

The report is available at two Web sites: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca and www.exportsource.gc.ca. It also may be obtained by contacting the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade InfoTech at 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free), or (613) 944-4000 in the Ottawa area.

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A backgrounder with the highlights from the report is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

OPENING DOORS TO THE WORLD: CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL MARKET ACCESS PRIORITIES — 1998

With exports of goods and services now accounting for over 40 percent of Canada's gross domestic product, maintaining and improving access to foreign markets for Canadian exporters and investors is a top priority for the government.

Around the globe, tariffs, red tape and other obstacles to commerce are coming down. Canada continues to play a leadership role in moving toward a world in which trade moves freely — in a manner that promotes Canadian values. However, much remains to be done.

Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities — 1998 presents the government's priorities for further improving access for Canadian exporters and investors to key markets. It outlines the range of initiatives the government will pursue this year at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, as well as details on specific obstacles to be tackled in several markets.

The document also highlights significant market-opening results from 1997 that will bring benefits to Canadian exporters and investors.

Market Access Results in 1997

In December, Canada was one of 70 countries that concluded negotiations on a financial services agreement at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The agreement, which covers countries representing over 95 percent of world trade in financial services, will give Canadian financial institutions improved access to key markets in Europe, Asia and Latin America, and should lead to new export and job opportunities in Canada.

Canada maintained unrestricted access to the U.S. grain market in the face of political pressure on the U.S. Administration from Congressional representatives for a return to a more restrictive import regime.

Japan will reduce its tariffs to zero by 2002 on all distilled spirits products, including Canadian whisky, under the terms of negotiations stemming from the findings of a WTO panel on Japan's liquor-tax regime.

Within the framework of the WTO, and under agreements reached with Canada and several other countries, India will phase out

import restrictions on a wide range of products of interest to Canadian exporters.

Canada and the United States implemented an agreement on trade in sugar and sugar-containing products that gives Canadian exporters of these products assured access to the U.S. market.

The Canada-EU Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards restored secure access to the European market for Canadian fur products. This agreement will contribute to increased employment opportunities in many remote northern regions, notably in Aboriginal communities.

In November, the 18 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies agreed to pursue an ongoing program of voluntary liberalization in 15 sectors, covering over \$1 trillion in annual imports by APEC members. Several Canadian export priorities are included in the nine "priority" sectors (e.g. forest products, fish and fish products, and environmental goods and services).

Canada's Market Access Priorities for 1998

Canada will be active through the full range of activities of the WTO, the cornerstone of the world trading system. Canada also uses, as necessary, the WTO's strengthened dispute settlement mechanism to protect Canadian interests; an example of this is Canada's challenge of Australia's ban on imports of uncooked salmon. Canada is also participating in accession negotiations with China, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Russia, Saudi Arabia and other important markets seeking to join the WTO.

To ensure that Canada benefits fully from its unique economic relationship with the United States, Canada will:

- defend access to the U.S. market by exercising its rights under existing trade agreements and by resisting U.S. measures that constrain Canada's access to its most important trading partner;
- continue to monitor closely and respond to key measures that may distort trade and investment decisions in the North American market;
- continue to resist the extraterritorial application of U.S. laws;
- work closely with the United States to enhance co-operation along our common border;
- continue to advance Canadian market access objectives in other areas, such as services, government procurement, and the application of trade remedies; and
- work with the United States to complete a Mutual Recognition Agreement on fish inspection systems as soon as possible.

To improve opportunities for Canadians to do business throughout the hemisphere, the government will actively engage in negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and will work to ensure concrete progress by the turn of the century.

Canada will work to finalize plans for trade liberalization in the sectors that APEC leaders and ministers identified at their November 1997 meeting in Vancouver, in a manner that serves as a catalyst for broader liberalization at the WTO.

To enhance opportunities for Canadian exporters, Canada will continue to work with Japan to modify a range of measures impeding Canadian exports of agri-food products, and building products and pre-fabricated housing.

Canada will continue to seek improved access to the Chinese market, especially in the context of WTO accession negotiations with that country.

Turning to Europe, Canada will continue to seek the elimination of a range of European Union tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting Canadian exports such as cereals, canola, asbestos, softwood lumber, and aluminum, while, at the same time, through the Canada-EU Action Plan, it will explore the further development of transatlantic trade relations.

Canada is holding discussions on the scope for free trade negotiations with the European Free Trade Association, which includes Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

April 1998

News Release

April 15, 1998

No. 90

CANADIAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO OUTLINES ROLE IN RECENT CONSULAR CASE

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade today outlined the role played by the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City during the expulsion from Mexico of Sarah Mireille Baillargeon and Julie Marquette on Sunday, April 12.

"The Canadian Embassy in Mexico City went out of its way to provide consular assistance to the two Canadians," said Ambassador Stanley Gooch. "Lines of communication were established early and Canadian Embassy staff acted in a timely and professional fashion to ensure their well-being," he added.

The two Canadians entered Mexico on tourist visas and did not register with the Embassy, nor did they inform the Embassy of their whereabouts or activities.

At about 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, the Canadian Embassy was informed about the detention of the two Canadians by the Mexican government. The Consul immediately contacted Mexican immigration authorities, and enquired about their whereabouts and well-being. They were then contacted in San Cristobal by the Consul.

They informed him that they were well and had not been mistreated. The Consul reported to them that immigration authorities would discuss their status on Easter Sunday. At their request, the Consul attempted to reach Renaude Grégoire, head of the Quebec non-governmental organization, Salut le Monde, with which they are affiliated. A message was left on her answering machine.

On Sunday, April 12, the Consul was unable to reach the two Canadians during the day because they were in transit to Tuxtla Gutierrez and then to Mexico City. He went to the airport that evening in an attempt to see them. Unable to locate the area where they were being held, the Consul subsequently spoke with



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both of them by phone. He told them that Renaude Grégoire and their parents had been informed about their situation.

The two Canadians requested and were given the Consul's direct telephone number so that they could discuss their situation at a later date. They also requested that the Embassy pick up and return to them their belongings left in San Cristobal, about 15 hours by car from Mexico City. The Embassy has agreed to do so and it has confirmed the whereabouts of their effects, which will be picked up next week when the Embassy makes one of its regular visits to Chiapas.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade issued a Travel Information Report at the beginning of March, noting that the Mexican Government is vigorously enforcing migratory legislation, and recommending obtaining the proper visa.

The Canadian Government believes it is important that national and international human rights organizations be able to travel freely and report on areas of concern.

Minister Axworthy will be discussing the expulsion of the two Canadians later this week in Santiago, Chile, with Mexican Foreign Secretary Rosario Green.

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

Eduardo Del Buey
Embassy of Canada, Mexico City
011-52-5-724-7900

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

April 15, 1998

No. 91

AXWORTHY WELCOMES BRAZILIAN RATIFICATION OF CANADA-BRAZIL TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS TREATY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed confirmation that President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil has ratified the Transfer of Offenders Treaty signed between Canada and Brazil on July 15, 1992. The two countries will exchange the instruments of ratification before the end of this week. The Treaty comes into force 30 days thereafter.

"The objective of the Canada-Brazil Transfer of Offenders Treaty is to work together to advance the rehabilitation of Canadian and Brazilian offenders by allowing them better contact with family and friends, and to facilitate their eventual reintegration into society at home," said Mr. Axworthy.

Transfer of Offenders Treaties allow prisoners to serve their sentences closer to their families in their own countries. Canada has such treaties with 10 countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Egypt (which is awaiting ratification), France, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Thailand, the United States and Venezuela.

Canadians incarcerated in Brazilian prisons could avail themselves of the transfer benefits under the treaty by submitting an application to Brazilian authorities. Applications would be considered on a case-by-case basis by Brazil. Brazil would then formally forward the application to the Canadian authorities who would then consider whether they are prepared to receive the prisoner into the Canadian system. Both Canada and Brazil must agree to a transfer before the transfer can take place.

Once an offender is in Canada, Canada cannot change the length of the original sentence. However, Canadian law would apply to the terms of serving the sentence, for example, Canadian parole provisions. Under Canada's *Corrections and Conditional Release Act, 1992*, a prisoner could be eligible for a parole hearing after serving the lesser of one third of the sentence or seven years.



There are approximately 1500 Canadians incarcerated around the world, seven of whom are in Brazil.

- 30 -

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News Release

April 16, 1998

No. 92

MARCHI ISSUES STATEMENT ON MAI TALKS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi stressed again today that Canada is not bound to any artificial deadline for the negotiations on a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

"The Government has said repeatedly that it will only sign the right deal at the right time," Mr. Marchi said, restating the Canadian position following a Wednesday news report that misinterpreted the Minister's comment that "Canada's position is to not agree to another deadline."

"This means that we will not be rushed into a deal," Mr. Marchi added. "We will not sign an MAI unless it safeguards our vital interests and values."

The MAI negotiations, which are being conducted under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), were to conclude at the end of April. It is now clear that this OECD target date will not be met.

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News Release

April 18, 1998

No. 93

MINISTERS ANNOUNCE NEW YOUTH INTERNSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that 13 Canadian organizations will place 77 young Canadians in international internships in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Ministers made the announcement in Chile, where they are attending the second Summit of the Americas in Santiago.

The internships will cover a broad range of placements, from business and international trade, marketing, tourism, the film industry and the environment, to peacebuilding, democratic development and children's issues.

"Young people are often caught in a cyclical pattern of not being able to get work because they lack experience and not being able to get experience because no one will hire them," said Mr. Axworthy. "The internship program goes a long way to giving young Canadians the opportunities and the experience they need to break that cycle."

"Young Canadians are growing up in an increasingly globalized world. They have to develop the skills and networks to compete successfully in this new world," said Mr. Marchi. "Through internships, young people are gaining the international training and experience that will make them valuable and valued employees to Canadian companies."

The government has dedicated \$65 million to international youth internships over two years as part of the \$315 million Youth Employment Strategy announced in February 1997. The international internship programs are delivered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canadian International Development Agency, Human Resource Development Canada, Industry Canada, Environment Canada and Canadian Heritage.



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Over fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99 approximately 3,500 interns will gain practical experience in international development and business.

To learn more about the international internship programs, call 1-800-559-2888 or consult the Canadian Youth Web Site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/youth for eligibility criteria and additional information about application procedures.

- 30 -

Attached is a backgrounder which includes the names of the organizations and institutions that will implement the internship projects this year, along with a summary of each project.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

INTERNSHIP PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA 1998-99

Conseil québécois pour l'Amérique latine (CQAL) - Bolivar Centre is offering internships in various countries of Latin America for graduates of business management and international trade with intermediate knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese. Internship activities will focus on seeking trade partners, negotiating partnership agreements, analyzing investment and technology transfer projects, conducting market studies, organizing trade missions, etc. For more information, please contact:

Vivian Moreno
Centre québécois pour l'Amérique latine - Bolivar Centre
380 St. Antoine West, Suite 3200
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3X7
Tel.: (514) 843-5151
Fax: (514) 987-1567
Email: bolivar@microtec.net

Forum francophone des affaires (FFA) will recruit candidates from various fields to work with small businesses and public sector departments in Peru and Haiti. Internship activities will focus mainly on business expansion and institutional development. Candidates should be fluent in French. For more information, please contact:

Yvette Cogne, Executive Director
Forum francophone des affaires - Canadian National Committee
380 St. Antoine Street West, Suite 5200
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3X7
Tel.: (514) 849-4572
Fax: (514) 844-8784
E-mail: info@ffacnc.qc.ca

Global Vision will coordinate internships in private sector organizations and business associations in Latin America. Interns will be exposed the role that trade, government policy, political systems and culture play in the global market and in Canada's ability to compete as a trading nation. For more information, please contact:

Amy Giroux, Director
Global Vision
13 Berthier
Cantley, Quebec J8V 2V5
Tel.: (819) 827-2838
Fax: (819) 827-2571
Email: gvamy@ican.ca
Web Site: www.globalvision.ca

The Telecommunications Executive Management Institute of Canada (TEMIC) will place interns with backgrounds in administration, marketing, engineering and technical education in Latin America with Canadian companies. Interns will have the opportunity to gain experience in international commercial and trade negotiations, to learn about the needs and opportunities in the field of telecommunications and to discover how these are essential to the development of countries with emerging economies. For more information, please contact:

Dennis Blais or Darlene Brunet
TEMIC
550 Sherbrooke West, Suite 471
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1B9
Tel.: (514) 849-0666
Fax: (514) 499-1012
E-mail: info@temic.ca
Website: <http://www.temic.ca>

The International Social Service, Canada (ISS) is offering young bilingual people with a background in social work the opportunity to contribute to ISS's mandate to assist children and families in difficult circumstances whose problems require resolution in two or more countries (e.g., transnational abduction of children). For more information, please contact:

Samantha Dugas
International Social Service Canada
714-151 Slater
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3
Tel.: (613) 236-6161
Fax: (613) 233-7306
Email: issc@magmacom.com

The Organization for Cooperation in Overseas Development (OCOD) is coordinating internships in foreign government departments in the Eastern Caribbean in areas such as economic development and the promotion of environmental strategies. Interns will have the opportunity to enhance their managerial skills, marketing capabilities, and organizational and program development skills. For more information, please contact:

Karlene Debanche
OCOD
Suite 307, One Wesley Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4C6
Tel.: (204) 946-0600
Fax: (204) 956-5939
Email: ocod@ocod.mb.ca
Web Site: www.mbnet.mb.ca/~ocod

The Parliamentary Centre, a non-governmental organization that supports democratic development through projects intended to strengthen parliaments, is offering internships in the Congress of Mexico. Interns will each be partnered with a Mexican staff member at the Congress to provide assistance in their area of specialization, contribute to the institutional development of the Congress, and expand ties between Canada and Mexico. For more information, please contact:

Shari Currie, Coordinator - International Programs
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 250 Albert Street, 4th Floor
 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M1
 Tel.: (613) 237-0143 Ext. 302
 Fax: (613) 235-8237
 E-mail: parlcent@web.net

Project Ploughshares is placing interns with partner institutions and organizations in major regions of the world affected by conflict. Internships will focus on peace building and security projects that are timely and substantial, such as light weapons control, the containment of surplus weapons in a postwar situation, the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers, converting defence resources to human development, landmines and the privatization of security. Interns will typically be graduates of peace and conflict studies, political science, history, international studies, and communications programs. For more information, please contact:

Grant Birks, Project Coordinator
 Project Ploughshares
 Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel College
 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G6
 Tel.: (519) 888-6541 Ext. 269
 Fax: (519) 885-0806
 E-mail: gfbirks@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca
 Website: <http://watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~plough/>

The Unit for Research and Education on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (URECRC) of the University of Victoria's School of Child and Youth Care is coordinating internships with indigenous organizations and universities in Central and South America. Internships activities will focus on community and policy level research and the implementation of programs targeting indigenous children's rights. Candidates should be graduates of human service professions, law, education or political science. For more information, please contact:

Philip Cook or Natasha Blanchet-Cohen
 School of Child and Youth Care
 University of Victoria

P.O. Box 1700
 Victoria, British Columbia V8W 2Y2
 Tel.: (250) 472-4762
 Fax: (250) 721-7218
 E-mail: indcrc@uvic.ca

The Canadian Film & Television Production Association (CFTPA) is offering graduates of film and television programs the opportunity to gain practical experience by participating in international co-ventures or co-productions and attending overseas industry-related conferences and trade forums. For more information, please contact, starting in May 1998:

Katy Beach
 Canadian Film & Television Production Association
 20 Toronto Street, Suite 830
 Toronto, Ontario M5C 2B8
 Tel: (416) 304-0280 or 1-800-267-8208
 Fax: (416) 304-0499
 Email: training@CFTPA.ca
 Web Site: www.ted.cftpa.ca

Tourisme Jeunesse will coordinate internships in Mexico where interns will work in the fields of tourism, recreology and animation. Placements will take place in private sector organizations where interns will work mainly in the area of marketing, administration and public relations. Knowledge of Spanish is required. For more information, please contact:

Christine Mercier
 Tourisme Jeunesse
 4545, Pierre de Coubertin Avenue
 P.O. Box 1000, stn M
 Montréal, Québec H1V 3R2
 Tel.: (514) 252-3117 poste 637 or 1-800-461-8585
 Fax: (514) 252-3119
 Email: info@tourismej.qc.ca
 Web Site: www.TourismeJ.qc.ca

Internships with the **Metis National Council; International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development, and South East Treaty Four Tribal Council - Ochapowace Indian Education Authority** will involve placement of indigenous youth from Canada with indigenous organizations in the Americas. For further information contact:

Coordinator
 Youth International Internships
 Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
 125 Sussex Drive
 K1A 0G2

Phone 613-944-0948
Fax 613-944-1226
e-mail yiip-psij.agp@extott07.x400.gc.ca

The Canadian Centre on Minority Affairs (CCMA) has internships that will provide young people with international business development experience through placements with businesses and organizations of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Interns will conduct market research on behalf of Canadian businesses. For more information, please contact:

Ian Francis
Canadian Centre on Minority Affairs
869 Yonge Street, Suite 110
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2H2
Tel. (416) 966-1226
Fax: (416) 966-1182
E-mail: ccma@interlog.com

News Release

April 19, 1998

No. 94

AXWORTHY WELCOMES RELEASE OF CHINESE DISSIDENT WANG DAN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed news that Chinese political dissident Wang Dan has been released by China. Mr. Wang has arrived in the United States from China, following his release on medical parole.

"I am encouraged by news that Mr. Wang has been released by the Chinese government," said Mr. Axworthy. "This welcome development follows the successful multilateral symposium on human rights jointly hosted by Canada and China last month in British Columbia, and the announcement later that month that China intends to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

Wang Dan was a student leader during the 1989 demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, and had been serving a lengthy sentence.

"Canada, along with several other countries, has long been urging the Chinese to release Wang Dan from prison. I am hopeful that this release might be followed by the freeing of other dissidents," added Minister Axworthy.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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News Release

April 21, 1998

No. 95

KILGOUR ANNOUNCES BILATERAL PROJECTS IN AFRICA

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour today announced that Canada will offer support to bilateral projects in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. The announcement was made on Kilgour's return from a 16-day trip to the continent, where he and Member of Parliament Jean Augustine led a business development mission to Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Ghana, Mali, and South Africa from April 1 to 17.

"These projects will allow Mali and Côte d'Ivoire to develop valuable assets for private sector development, thereby promoting economic and social prosperity in these countries," said Kilgour. "Canada is proud to be a partner in Africa's efforts to promote development, peace and security in the region."

In Mali, Kilgour signed two Memorandums of Understanding. The first, valued at \$5.5 million, supports the regulation of savings and credit unions. This will give small investors in the countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union access to high-security financial services. The second, valued at \$4.8 million, supports grain marketing in Mali, ensuring a degree of income stabilization for Malian farmers.

The Kilgour and Augustine visit to Mali was also marked by Mali's decision to ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The Convention has been signed by 124 countries since December 1997.

In Côte d'Ivoire, Kilgour signed an agreement under which the Canadian International Development Agency will contribute \$4 million in technical assistance to the Central Bank of the West African States to establish and operate the regional stock exchange in Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa. This regional project is part of the Canadian co-operation program in Côte d'Ivoire, which focusses on private-sector support.



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"The positive changes experienced by African markets offer growing opportunities for Canadian business people," said Kilgour. "The mission of Jean, others and myself has enabled Canada to lay the foundations for diversifying relations with Africa toward broader economic partnerships."

The delegation was accompanied by nearly 20 Canadian firms from the mining, transportation, telecommunications, energy and service sectors. Last year, Canadian exports to sub-Saharan Africa amounted to \$750 million, up by \$100 million over the previous year.

In addition to promoting business relations with Africa, Kilgour also took the opportunity to meet with the leaders of all the countries visited. They discussed human rights, peacebuilding, the ratification of the Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines, Canada's candidacy for a seat on the United Nations Security Council, and the situation in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Kilgour and Augustine also travelled to Mozambique where they witnessed a demonstration of mine-clearing activities.

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For more information, please contact:

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(613) 992-9404

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

April 22, 1998

No. 96

CANADA ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES TO ASSIST THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, Diane Marleau, today announced new initiatives to assist in the Middle East Peace Process.

These initiatives flow from recommendations made by a recent Canadian task force to the region. The task force examined Canada's involvement in the peace process with a special focus on the humanitarian needs of Palestinians, particularly Palestinian refugees. The task force, composed of representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), was sent to the region as a follow-up to Minister Axworthy's visit to the Middle East last fall.

"Canada is building on its substantial and longstanding contribution to the peace process with these new initiatives," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our approach is to identify practical and constructive steps that demonstrate that the pursuit of peace is in the interests of all the people in the region. Canada has a unique role in the peace process as Gavel of the Refugee Working Group and that is why we have placed particular emphasis on the needs of Palestinian refugees."

Ministers Axworthy and Marleau announced the following new initiatives:

- a meeting of the co-ordinating committee of the Refugee Working Group has been held recently in Canada renewing multilateral dialogue on the Palestinian refugee issue (April 19-21);
- a contribution of \$4 million for reconstruction efforts in Palestinian communities;
- new CIDA contributions, including \$2.5 million for improving municipal services in Gaza;



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- the establishment of a Canadian Representative Office in the West Bank/Gaza;
- new efforts to accelerate the relocation of Canada Camp residents with their community in Gaza; and
- an additional contribution of \$575 000 to help cover the costs of moving the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) from Vienna to Gaza.

"Canada is committed to creating the conditions for lasting peace and development in the Middle East," said Madame Marleau. "By working to improve the living conditions of Palestinians, Canada is helping to build an environment where all people in the region can enjoy the fruits of peace."

Madame Marleau will follow up on these initiatives during her planned visit to the Middle East in June.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site:
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News Release

April 23, 1998

No. 97

MARCHI TABLES GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON MAI

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today tabled the Government's response to a House of Commons Sub-Committee report on negotiations for the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

"The Government's response to the Committee's recommendations confirms our commitment to an approach that is both sensitive to, and in keeping with, the interests and concerns raised by the Canadian public," said Mr. Marchi. "Indeed, the parliamentary consensus reflected in the Committee report very much complements the position taken by the Government throughout the MAI negotiations."

At the Minister's request, the all-party Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade held public hearings in November on the MAI and submitted its report with recommendations in December 1997. The Government has responded positively to all of these 17 recommendations, which provide useful advice to the Government and its negotiators.

During the hearings, the Sub-Committee heard from more than 50 Canadian witnesses and received over 150 written submissions representing diverse perspectives and a wide range of concerns. A number of experts and spokespersons for national associations also presented their views on the proposed deal.

In its response, the Government reiterates its commitment to continued consultations with Parliament, the provinces and Canadians. Canada will only sign an agreement, with ironclad reservations, that fully preserves its freedom of action at both the federal and provincial levels, on Canadian culture, the environment, labour standards, health, education, social services, Aboriginal programs and programs for minority groups.



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"In this parliamentary process, I've asked, I've listened and I've agreed," concluded Minister Marchi. "In these negotiations, there is no time line. There is only Canada's bottom line, and we will not sign on unless our requirements are met."

The MAI is being negotiated in Paris under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a body that promotes co-operation among the world's 29 major industrialized countries including Canada. The agreement is an attempt to negotiate a multilateral framework of rules for investment.

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A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document and the Government's response to the Sub-Committee report are also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, TRADE DISPUTES AND INVESTMENT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SCFAIT)

In the Government's response to the Sub-Committee's report, Minister Marchi, on behalf of the Government of Canada, expressed his satisfaction with the report's recommendations. The recommendations confirm Canada's approach to date in these negotiations. As well, the Government agrees with all the recommendations. This is especially true of the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 - That Canada continue to participate in the negotiations

The Government is satisfied with this recommendation that "Canada's participation in the negotiations does not commit us to whatever agreement results from the process. The Government will only sign an agreement that fully preserves our freedom of action, at both the federal and provincial levels, on Canadian culture, the environment, labour standards, health, education, social services, Aboriginal programs and programs for minority groups. Simply put, the Government will only accept a MAI that is consistent with our national values and our Canadian approaches to key issues."

Recommendation 2 - Consultations and informing Canadians

In November 1997, the Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment held public hearings on the MAI, at the request of the Minister for International Trade. Canadians were invited to appear before the Sub-Committee and submit briefs. In fact, the Government's priority has been to inform the Canadian public. Members of Parliament have been informed extensively, opposition critics have been briefed and numerous press briefings and interviews have been given. Government officials have consulted broadly with the provinces, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. A list of the organizations consulted to date by the Government, as well as background information on the MAI negotiations and Canada's objectives, is available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>).

Recommendation 3 - Involvement of provinces and further parliamentary examination before signing any negotiated agreement

Since the outset of the negotiations in 1995, the Government involved the provinces and consulted them frequently and consistently. They are debriefed after every negotiating session, copied on all reports and have access to all negotiating documents. Federal and provincial trade officials have met numerous times over the past three years to address issues related to the negotiations. The federal-provincial Trade Ministerial meeting of February 19, 1998 allowed for a thorough discussion of Canada's objectives and bottom lines.

The Government agrees to consult further with the Parliamentary Committee on the negotiations towards a potential agreement. The Government will also continue to make public new versions of the MAI consolidation of draft working texts as they become available from the negotiating process.

Recommendation 12 - Core labour standards in the text of the agreement

Canada recognizes that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is the proper forum for advancing international labour law, but, like other countries in the MAI negotiations, fully supports inclusion in an agreement of references to the principles underlying ILO core labour standards and the association of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The core principles of non-discrimination on which the MAI rests will not limit the ability of governments to maintain or, indeed, promote labour standards. The Government is committed to ensuring that the MAI does not inadvertently threaten labour standards, whether in Canada or globally.

Recommendation 13 - Introduction of effective environmental standards

The Government is committed to advancing environmental protection and sustainable development. Canada will not accept obligations that would infringe on the right of governments to regulate or take appropriate measures in the interests of protecting the environment or promoting sustainable development.

Canada is currently working with other countries to introduce language into the agreement that would stipulate clearly that the MAI does not prevent countries from maintaining, introducing or enforcing environmental measures of general application.

Recommendation 14 - That Canada achieve an adequate and effective cultural exemption

Canada will preserve the right to adopt or maintain policies, programs and measures that promote and preserve Canadian culture and cultural industries. Such an approach is reflected in the NAFTA, the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Canada-Chile FTA, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Canada's Foreign Investment Protection Agreements (FIPAs).

Recommendation 16 - That Canada achieve an unbound reservation for health, education and social services

The Government is on record for its commitment to preserving its full freedom of action, at both the federal and the provincial levels, with no standstill or rollback, in key areas such as health, education, social services and programs for Aboriginal Peoples and programs for minority groups. These areas are of critical concern to Canadians, and the Government believes fully that they require a uniquely Canadian solution in terms of public policy.

April 23, 1998

April 23, 1998

No. 98

KILGOUR TO VISIT COLOMBIA TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Secretary of State David Kilgour (Latin America and Africa) will visit Colombia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Bogotá from April 29 to 30.

"This 50th anniversary commemoration is an important step in linking the activities of the OAS with the goals of the Summit of Americas," said Kilgour. "The event follows closely the Santiago Summit and thus allows us all to discuss following up the decisions reached there."

Canada continues to view the OAS as the principal venue where governments can come together to debate the issues confronting the region with the help of representatives from civil society, international organizations, and sectoral experts from all levels of government. As the primary forum for political, developmental and social dialogue in the hemisphere, the OAS is assuming increasing responsibility for the implementation of commitments made by leaders at the Summit of the Americas, which include encouraging the progress of peace, justice, human rights, equal opportunities, sustainable development, free trade and the environment.

While in Bogotá, Secretary Kilgour will speak at the OAS Special Commemorative meeting where member states will adopt the Declaration of Bogotá, which will reaffirm each nation's commitment to the principles and charter of the OAS and call for greater hemispheric co-operation and institutional renewal of the Organization.

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
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News Release

April 24, 1998

No. 99

MINISTER MARCHI TO ATTEND PARIS MEETINGS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will participate from April 27 to 30 in meetings in Paris of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers (Quad), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Commission, and the Canada-France Joint Economic Commission. Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions) Jim Peterson will take part in the OECD meeting to provide his expertise on the effects of the Asian crisis and the role of the OECD in responding to the crisis.

"These meetings highlight the diversity of Canada's trade and investment interests and the leading role we play in the global trading system," Mr. Marchi said. "A key Canadian objective is to continue to seek opening foreign markets for Canadian exporters and investors while safeguarding our vital interests in culture, the environment, labour standards, and social policy."

At the OECD meeting from April 27 to 28, ministers from the 29 member countries will consider an OECD report on the benefits of trade liberalization. As well, they will consider next steps for the negotiations on a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), now expected to continue beyond the current April deadline.

"As I have said before, we will only sign an MAI that fully supports our values and secures our interests," said Mr. Marchi. "We will retain our freedom to act in the areas of culture, the environment, labour, health care, education, social programs, programs for Aboriginal Peoples and programs for minority groups. We will not be rushed into a deal."

Other themes of the OECD meeting include: responding to the global implications of the Asian financial crisis; challenges and priorities for the OECD; achieving sustainable growth through the promotion of integrated economic, social and trade policy and sustainable development; and strengthening the multilateral trade and investment system.



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"I welcome the opportunity that the OECD provides for an informed dialogue leading to a thorough understanding and true assessment of the problems such as the effect of the Asian crisis," said Mr. Peterson.

The Canada-France Joint Economic Commission and bilateral meeting with Mr. Marchi's French counterpart, Jacques Dondoux, will take place in Paris following the OECD conference on April 28. The NAFTA Commission meeting of Canadian, American and Mexican trade ministers is scheduled for April 29. The NAFTA Commission is the highest political body tasked with overseeing implementation of the NAFTA. The Quad meeting of Canadian, U.S., European Union, and Japanese trade ministers will be held in Versailles, near Paris, from April 29 to 30.

Among the themes and objectives for these meetings are:

- **The Quad:** The ministers will discuss the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministers' meeting and the 50th anniversary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva in May; the trade agenda for further negotiations in areas ranging from services to pharmaceuticals; the accession of new members to the WTO; the global electronic commerce; the Asian financial crisis; and the integration of least-developed countries into the global trading system;
- **The NAFTA Commission:** The Canadian, American, and Mexican ministers will review and provide direction to the extensive NAFTA work program to enhance trade liberalization benefits and discuss co-operation in broader multilateral and regional trade efforts; and
- **The Canada-France Joint Economic Commission and bilateral meeting:** The Canadian and French ministers will discuss development of bilateral trade and co-operation in areas such as agriculture, multi-media and aeronautics, as well as a review of multilateral trade matters including the next WTO ministerial meeting, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Backgrounders are attached.

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Backgrounder

CANADA AND THE OECD

Founded in 1961, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) replaced the Organization for European Economic Co-operation set up in 1948 in connection with the Marshall Plan. Based in Paris, the OECD provides a forum for government representatives of the industrialized democracies to discuss and co-ordinate economic, trade and social policies.

There are 29 member countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Canada was a founding member. The European Commission is an observer.

These member countries account for about 70 percent of the world's economic output. One country is in the accession process - Slovakia. The OECD has an annual budget of \$US 200 million and employs a staff of 1,500 at its Secretariat. Canada contributes 2.85 percent of the budget, the United States contributes 25 percent and Japan about 24 percent.

For the first time in the history of the Organization, a non-European and Canadian, Donald Johnston, assumed the duties of Secretary-General on June 1, 1996.

The OECD is the lead international institution for providing analysis and policy advice on key issues of importance to Canada and its major partners, including growth and employment, social reform, and strengthening the multilateral economic system.

As is the case for other multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank and the United Nations organizations, the OECD must implement reforms to respond to budgetary cuts and to make the OECD more focussed, efficient and effective.

Canada supports the role of the OECD in promoting further trade liberalization and the integration of developing countries into the multilateral system, as well as the reform efforts of transitional economies in Eastern Europe.

In 1995, Canada, together with the other OECD member countries, agreed to negotiate a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), a deal whose central purpose is to negotiate a multilateral framework of rules for investment similar to the one that already exists for international trade.

April 1998

Backgrounder

CANADA-FRANCE: BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

France ranks third among Canada's economic partners in Europe, and stands seventh among its global after the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, China and Mexico. Our trade relations with France involve a growing proportion of value-added goods. There is a marked increase in tourism and expanding scientific and technological exchanges.

France is one of Canada's 10 priority markets. In 1997, our bilateral trade exceeded \$6 billion for the first time, reaching \$6.6 billion. Our exports totalled \$1.5 billion and Canadian imports amounted to \$5.1 billion. Investments from France account for \$5.7 billion. There are more than 380 French companies across Canada, representing some 40 000 jobs.

France-Canada trade cannot be defined solely in terms of trade in goods. Trade in services is growing just as vigorously and totals more than \$1.6 billion, or 30 percent of the value of trade in goods. Tourism alone is responsible for almost a million visitors a year, representing about \$1 billion in revenues divided almost equally between the two countries. The 470 000 French tourists who visited Canada in 1996 spent about \$520 million and supported 14 000 jobs, mainly in small and medium-sized businesses.

There is a tradition of strategic partnerships and technological exchanges between France and Canada, especially in the high technology field. Our two countries also enjoy productive relations in the area of science and technology. The next Canada-France Joint Scientific Commission is to be held in Canada in September 1998.

The Canada-France Joint Economic Commission, held every two years, is an important means of further developing our trade and economic relations and of reviewing our bilateral and multi-lateral trade agendas. This year, the Commission will focus particularly on agriculture, multimedia and aeronautics.

April 1998

Backgrounder

THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, THE NAFTA COMMISSION, AND CANADIAN TRADE

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and side agreements on labour and the environment entered into force on January 1, 1994.

The NAFTA Commission

The NAFTA Commission is the most senior political body overseeing implementation and further elaboration of the NAFTA. It includes cabinet-level representatives – in practice, the trade ministers – from the three NAFTA partners, Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

The meeting in Paris on April 29, 1998, is the fifth NAFTA Commission gathering since the NAFTA entered into force. Mexico is chairing the Paris meeting.

Trade and Jobs under the NAFTA

Canada's merchandise exports to the United States rose to \$244 billion in 1997, a 63 percent increase from the outset of NAFTA in 1994. Exports to Mexico climbed 54 percent to \$1.3 billion in the same period. Statistics Canada reports that during that time, there was a net increase of more than 1 million jobs in Canada.

The NAFTA has helped make Canada even more attractive to investors because of improved access to the Mexican and U.S. markets and clear rules on trade and investment. U.S. direct investment in Canada grew 21 percent between 1994 and 1996 while Mexican investment in Canada rose 35 percent in the same period. Investment in Canada contributes to job creation and economic growth.

A survey of North American businesses, carried out by the Bank of Montreal and its U.S. and Mexican affiliates, and released in March 1998, found that 67 percent of those surveyed will pursue "significantly more" business opportunities throughout the continent in the next two years. As well, the survey findings support the view that the NAFTA has contributed to sales and job growth in Canada with the vast majority reporting either more hirings (47 percent) or no job change (41 percent).

April 1998

Backgrounder

THE QUAD

The Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' Meeting (Quad) is an informal group of trade ministers from Canada, Japan, the European Union, and the United States, which meets approximately twice a year.

Created in 1982 to examine major global trade and investment issues, the Quad is an important consultative body allowing international trade ministers to exchange views on key trade and investment matters.

The Quad was instrumental in achieving significant progress leading to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations in 1996.

The Quad provides a forum for discussing the shape and scope of the multilateral trade agenda, and also offers Canada's trade minister the opportunity to discuss bilateral issues on a one-to-one basis with each of the other three ministers.

Ministers attending this Quad meeting will consider issues such as the current multilateral trade agenda under the World Trade Organization (WTO), including the Ministerial conference from May 18 to 20, regional trade initiatives, the Asian financial crisis, and the integration of the least-developed countries into the global trading system.

April 1998

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News Release

April 27, 1998

No. 100

CANADA CONDEMNS THE MURDER OF GUATEMALAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST BISHOP JUAN GERARDI

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy today strongly condemned the murder last night of Bishop Juan Gerardi, Co-ordinator of the Human Rights Office of the Archiepiscopate of Guatemala. Bishop Gerardi was an active campaigner for human rights and had played an important part in Guatemala's peace process.

"It is particularly distressing that this brutal crime comes only two days after the release of the Church's report on the human rights violations and atrocities during Guatemala's 36-year civil conflict," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada calls on the Government of Guatemala to undertake a vigorous and rapid investigation of this crime and to bring the perpetrators to justice."

"We express our sympathy and condolences to Bishop Gerardi's family and co-workers," added Minister Axworthy. "Canada will continue to support human rights workers and organizations in Guatemala."

Canada, through its peacebuilding fund and its bilateral aid program, supports implementation of the peace accords and peacebuilding in Guatemala. This includes five civilian police human rights monitors for the United Nations Mission, support to Guatemala's "Truth Commission," alternative conflict resolution, and community reconciliation through socio-economic reactivation projects in ex-conflict zones.

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
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News Release

April 28, 1998

No. 101

MARCHI WELCOMES STUDY ON BENEFITS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT LIBERALIZATION

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed a study on the benefits of trade and investment liberalization released in Paris by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The study was presented to ministers of OECD countries at their annual meeting.

"This solid study helps show that, in the long term, liberalization of trade and investment benefits society," said Mr. Marchi. "It is an important contribution to public discussion of these matters. I urge Canadians to read it as they consider Canada's future in the global marketplace."

At their meeting last year, ministers called on the organization to produce a "focussed, multidisciplinary study of the benefits of trade and investment liberalization." Mr. Marchi noted that in response to the ministers' request, the organization "had made a sincere effort to increase public understanding of liberalization."

The comprehensive study, *Open Markets Matter: The Benefits of Trade and Investment Liberalisation*, says that short-term structural adjustment is necessary for longer-term prosperity, and that appropriate complementary domestic policies are needed to ease adjustment.

"The study also shows that liberalization of trade and investment has an impact on other areas such as labour and the environment," Mr. Marchi noted. "Clearly, trade and investment policy cannot be considered by any of our governments in isolation."

The minister added that the study could assist OECD member governments in discussing these trade and investment issues with the growing number of interested groups and individuals.

The full report can be found on the OECD Web site at <http://www.oecd.org/ech/special.htm>

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News Release

April 28, 1998

No. 102

KILGOUR TO VISIT LATIN AMERICA

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour announced today that he will lead a delegation to Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama and Costa Rica from May 1 to 8. The visit will build on solid relationships by enhancing Canada's bilateral, political and economic relations.

"This visit will promote mutual understanding as we dialogue on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues," said Kilgour. "As well, it is important to underline the increasing importance of Canadian trade and investment in the region."

With a view to further strengthening bilateral ties with Ecuador, Kilgour will encourage negotiations of a Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) and discuss good governance, regional security and integration, promotion of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and issues regarding Indigenous Peoples.

While in Venezuela, which is one of the most active members of the Andean community, Kilgour will discuss Canada's support of the economic reform process in that country and touch on issues of co-operation in the areas of judicial reform, human rights, Indigenous Peoples, governance, Santiago Summit follow-up, and Haiti. Bilateral trade with Venezuela increased to almost \$2 billion in 1997.

During his visit to Panama, Kilgour will highlight the strong ties between the two countries and offer support to ongoing Indigenous projects. He will also lobby on behalf of Canadian mining companies renegotiating their mining concessions in Panama. Canadian companies now hold close to 70 percent of all mining concessions in the country.

While in Costa Rica, Kilgour will represent the Government of Canada at the inaugural ceremony of the newly elected president, Miguel Angel Rodriguez. Kilgour's attendance in Costa Rica will reaffirm Canada's presence in the region.

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News Release

April 28, 1998

No. 103

CANADA INTENDS TO INTERVENE AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Canadian government will use its permanent observer status at the Council of Europe to raise Canada's concerns and to defend its position on the responsible use of chrysotile asbestos fibre.

A group of parliamentarians from the Council of Europe recently expressed its views on the banning of asbestos. In accordance with usual procedure, the opinion of the Parliamentary Assembly has since been referred to the Committee of Ministers, which does not have legislative powers to ban a product.

"The European Union and the Council of Europe are two separate and distinct institutions. The Council of Europe has no authority over the administration or regulation of trade," said Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi. "In concert with our partners – the Government of Quebec, industry and unions, as well as the five other chrysotile-producing countries – we will continue to actively defend the policy of the responsible use of chrysotile asbestos in this arena, as we have in other forums."

One of the positions taken by the Assembly was to favour the creation of a group consisting of scientists with different points of view to undertake a comparative study on the effects of different types of asbestos. The parliamentarians also recognized that it is premature to say that these substitute products are environmentally pure.

"We remain confident that the Committee of Ministers will take into consideration the specific properties of chrysotile fibres and the lack of scientific information about the health risks and public safety risks associated with substitute products," said Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale. "The Canadian government's position is that this issue must be debated on scientific grounds. In this context, we believe a ban on all types of asbestos fibres is not a solution when you consider that scientific authorities from Europe have recently expressed



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serious concerns about the human health risks associated with replacement products."

The Parliamentary Assembly reached its position last week despite strong concerns expressed by Canadian parliamentarians at the meeting. Firm opposition was also voiced by the Russian delegation, which insisted on the need to differentiate between chrysotile fibres and other types of asbestos fibres.

Russia and Canada are part of a coalition of six chrysotile asbestos-producing countries, which are co-signatories of an aide-mémoire promoting the safe use of chrysotile fibres that was presented last week to the European Commission. The four other countries are Brazil, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The Canadian government undertook this initiative in co-operation with the Quebec government and the chrysotile industry.

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News Release

April 28, 1998

No. 104

NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Attached is the final communiqué of the annual ministerial conference of the 29 member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released today in Paris.

Due to its length, the OECD communiqué will not be distributed by fax. It is available on the Department's Internet site at:

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

and on the OECD site at:

http://www.oecd.org/news_and_events/release/nw98-51a.htm

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OECD News Release

Paris, 28 April 1998

29
MEMBER
COUNTRIES

OECD COUNCIL MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

Paris, 27-28 April 1998

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Belgium
Canada
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Korea
Luxembourg
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom

1. The OECD Council at Ministerial level met on 27-28 April 1998 under the chairmanship of Mr Jaime Gama, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr António Sousa Franco, Minister of Finance, of Portugal, assisted by the vice-chairs from Hungary and Korea. Prior to the meeting, the Chairman led consultations with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD; both organisations submitted statements for the consideration of Ministers. Ministers discussed key policy challenges of the globalising economy which they face in meeting the aspirations of their citizens -- promoting economic growth and employment through sound macroeconomic policies and structural reform; the better integration of environmental, social and economic policies; and the strengthening of the multilateral system -- thereby ensuring sustainable development and a durable improvement in living standards. They focused also on the global implications of the financial and economic situation in Asia. Against this background, Ministers discussed the OECD's role, its achievements and future work.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ASIAN CRISIS AND THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

2. Ministers noted that the Asian financial crisis has highlighted the growing interdependence of countries in the world economy as well as the importance of having well-functioning markets and efficient economies and supportive mechanisms of international co-operation and solidarity. They believe that recent events have confirmed that good governance and effective structural policies -- concerning financial systems, regulatory reform, corporate governance, and labour and product markets -- together with stable macroeconomic policies based on sound and transparent public finances and control of inflation, are critical to good economic performance, employment, social cohesion and the smooth functioning of the global economy. Ministers stressed the importance of a quick return to financial stability and economic growth in Asia through the rapid implementation of the macroeconomic and structural reforms necessary for recovery. They called on OECD countries to contribute to that recovery with policies that sustain growth and domestic demand, further open markets and improve conditions for investment. In this regard, domestic demand-led growth in Japan would contribute significantly.

3. Ministers welcomed reforms being undertaken by countries in Asia and recognised their growth potential over the longer term but also urged countries affected by the crisis to implement fully and expeditiously the recommended reforms agreed with the IMF, the World Bank and other relevant international institutions. The events in Asia have underlined the importance of international monetary and financial co-operation and of the advantages of all parties working together in a co-ordinated manner to prevent, manage and contribute to overcoming crises of a global nature.

4. Bearing in mind the upcoming WTO Ministerial, Ministers also noted that the impact on trade and investment of the current financial and economic situation in Asia poses challenges for the multilateral system. All countries have a substantial stake in economic stability and development in the Asian region. Ministers agreed on the importance of all countries maintaining open markets, resisting protectionist pressures, sustaining the momentum for future broad-based liberalisation building further on current levels of market access, undertaking regulatory and structural reform, and providing a receptive climate for investment. Ministers confirmed the importance of stable trade financing facilities and of providing development assistance, as appropriate, targeted to help address the economic and social implications of the financial crisis for affected Asian countries.

5. Ministers reaffirmed the Organisation's commitment to contribute to the international effort, led by the international financial institutions, to overcome the Asian financial crisis as rapidly as possible, through policy dialogue and co-operation in its areas of expertise. They stressed the important role of the OECD's peer review mechanism in contributing to sound macroeconomic and structural policy environments in Member countries. They endorsed the establishment of an OECD special programme addressing structural issues arising from financial instability in non-member economies, to complement on-going co-operation with emerging and transition economies in Asia and elsewhere. In this context, Ministers welcomed the commitment on the part of many non-OECD countries to a path of continued liberalisation, structural reform, good governance and the maintenance of a favourable investment climate, which contribute both to the good performance of those economies and to a strengthened multilateral system.

6. Ministers noted that, despite the effects of the Asian financial crisis, the underlying economic situation in most OECD countries is generally good, with sustained output growth and low inflation expected in nearly all. Economic growth in 1998-99 is projected to average around 2 1/2 per cent in the OECD area, though with very different prospects across the regions, including some strengthening of growth in continental Europe, marked weakness in Korea and the prospect of a resumption of growth in Japan with its stimulus package. Nevertheless unemployment remains at over 7 per cent, some 35 million persons, for the area as a whole and it is forecast to remain around 10 per cent in Europe.

7. In this context, Ministers discussed recent policy developments and challenges facing OECD countries. They confirmed their commitment to pursue policies to achieve strong sustainable growth and reaffirmed the need for macroeconomic policies focused on sound public finances and effective control of inflation. They also agreed on the need for fiscal consolidation over the medium term in most OECD countries, in order to reduce debt levels and help meet the challenge of ageing populations. Where tax burdens are high and action is still needed to reduce deficits, the main efforts should involve containing expenditures, although tax reform may also have a role to play. Different cyclical positions may call for different policy settings in the short term, however. In particular:

-- In the United States, a general government budget surplus has been achieved for the first time in decades. The policy framework there should continue to be directed at sustainable expansion and to increasing national saving. At the same time, given the tight labour market, any possible resurgence of inflationary pressures in that country should be watched carefully.

-- With respect to the European Union, Ministers welcomed the convergence of budget deficits and inflation rates in EU economies, as this will allow the EMU to come into being on a broad base. Three OECD Member countries have so far entered the EU enlargement process, and Ministers encouraged them to continue with efforts toward necessary macro-economic and structural adjustments that they have been undertaking. Continued pursuit of sound and credible macroeconomic policies, within the stability framework, together with the pursuit of structural reforms, is critical for job creation and sustainable non-inflationary growth throughout the EU. However, it is important that recovery in EMU participating countries be increasingly based on sustained growth of domestic demand.

-- Ministers welcomed the substantial policy measures announced April 24 by the Government of Japan aimed at achieving domestic demand-led growth. They noted the intention of the Government of Japan to put the measures in the package into place quickly. Ministers noted that further progress in the strengthening of the financial system and in structural reform would help establish a sound basis for sustainable growth led by domestic demand. Over the longer term, fiscal consolidation remains an important goal in a rapidly ageing society.

-- Ministers welcomed the efforts by Korea to overcome its economic difficulties through the implementation of its programme of reforms. Continued vigorous pursuit of the reform package, including financial reforms, improved corporate governance and enhanced competition through more liberal and non-discriminatory trade and investment policies, supported by continued high savings and an educated workforce, is necessary to restore economic prospects and put the economy back on the medium-term track of high growth.

8. Ministers recognised the importance of having an open and well-informed public debate on trade and investment liberalisation in the globalising world economy, in light of public concerns about the effects of such liberalisation. They welcomed the Organisation's study "Open Markets Matter: The Benefits of Trade and Investment Liberalisation", which outlines the substantial gains to be made through continued liberalisation by all countries to promote efficiency, innovation and consumer choice; develop better quality goods and services; raise incomes; and sustain economic growth and net job creation. Ministers noted that liberalisation is one important component, among others, of what must be a coherent set of policies aimed at achieving a durable improvement in living standards. At the same time, there is a need to ensure that the gains from liberalisation are as widely shared as possible, and that policies are in place to help, in particular, those most affected by adjustment. Bearing in mind the need to build public support for the multilateral system, Ministers agreed accordingly on the importance of ensuring maximum possible transparency.

9. Ministers agreed to a statement on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which is annexed to this Communiqué.

10. Ministers are convinced that globalisation offers great opportunities to enhance economic growth and improve welfare, both in Member and non-member economies. They recognised that these benefits will be fully realised and widely shared only if structural reforms are adopted which encourage and facilitate governments, firms, and citizens to successfully adjust and innovate, taking into account the needs of the most vulnerable and the need to prevent people from drifting into long-term unemployment and social exclusion. Ministers agreed to pursue policies to that effect, taking into account the need to integrate economic, social and environmental objectives in promoting sustainable development.

11. In that context, Ministers agreed that action is needed to secure: sound macroeconomic conditions and financial systems; comprehensive reforms in both labour and product markets and tax and welfare systems; strategies for lifelong learning in the public and private sectors; an adequate response to the social, fiscal and financial implications of ageing populations; better corporate governance and regulatory practices; the effective development and utilisation of new technologies including in electronic commerce; the full benefits of trade and investment liberalisation; and sustainable development. Ministers called on the OECD to contribute to this ambitious agenda by charting the way in which countries can best take advantage of the opportunities and meet the challenges of globalisation.

G STRUCTURAL REFORM AND ADJUSTMENT

Implementing the Jobs Strategy

12. Ministers agreed that reducing high and persistent unemployment remains a top priority for many countries, especially in Europe. Ministers are particularly concerned about the persistence of high long-term and youth unemployment, as well as decreasing employability among older workers, in many OECD economies. There is evidence that unemployment is now largely structural in OECD countries, although there are still some where cyclical unemployment remains high. There is also mounting evidence that the OECD Jobs Strategy, implemented comprehensively and tailored to the specific conditions in each country, represents an effective means of promoting employment and responding to countries' labour market problems. Ministers therefore emphasized the importance of the full implementation of the Strategy. They requested a comprehensive review of progress in this area in 1999, to aid them in implementing necessary reforms. Ministers also noted growing regional disparities in unemployment and widening income disparities in a number of countries and the importance of addressing these issues. They welcomed the specific initiative by the Organisation focusing on youth unemployment, which OECD Labour Ministers had recommended at their meeting in October 1997.

13. Ministers agreed that, as discussed at the OECD Industry Ministers' meeting in February, fostering entrepreneurship and improving the conditions for the creation and growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises are important for achieving better economic performance and improved job prospects, as well as for reducing regional economic disparities. They aim to improve the conditions for entrepreneurial activity, in particular by ensuring that capital markets, tax systems, administrative and regulatory conditions, infrastructure, and the labour and product market environment, provide a suitable setting. They noted the rapid growth and stressed the increasing importance of services, their connections with industry, and

their impact on competitiveness.

14. Ministers also recognised the important role of technology in driving productivity advances and thus economic growth. Technological change leads to shifts in the pattern of labour demand, reducing the demand for some types of employment and increasing the demand for others. Policy should thus be geared not only to fostering innovation and technology diffusion, but also to facilitating the ability of both firms and individuals to adapt to technological change, thereby reaping the full benefits of productivity improvements and generating positive effects on jobs.

15. Taking full advantage of technological opportunities requires an appropriately-skilled workforce. Ministers agreed on the importance of effective education and training systems, as well as lifelong learning for all, to ensure that people are adequately equipped, or re-equipped, for the jobs of the future. Particular attention should be paid to efficiently assisting the most vulnerable in society who may be less able to take advantage of education and training programmes.

Improving Strategies for Ageing and Social Policy

16. Ministers discussed the challenges of ageing populations, a major priority for policy-makers, recognising that demographic and labour market trends in most OECD countries are likely to result in increasing numbers of people who are not working relative to working people, especially from 2010. They welcomed the report "Maintaining Prosperity in an Ageing Society" which proposes principles for interrelated reforms in many areas of social, economic and financial policy, in particular for health care and pensions systems. Societies must foster a climate conducive to "active ageing", providing support for people to lead active lives as they grow older. Ministers agreed to take into account these principles in developing national strategies and to monitor progress through the OECD.

17. Reform of social policy more generally figures high on the agenda of most OECD countries. The "Initiative for a Caring World" is contributing to a useful sharing of national experiences. Social policy should be more cost-effective and emphasize integration into the labour market in order to be more responsive to the needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable, and thereby strengthen social cohesion and contribute to overcoming poverty. Ministers look forward to the recommendations of OECD Social Policy Ministers, who will meet in June, on how the Organisation might best contribute to achieving these objectives.

Governance and Regulatory Issues

18. Ministers welcomed the analytical work of the OECD on corporate governance. They called on the OECD to develop, in conjunction with national governments, other relevant international organisations and the private sector, a set of standards and guidelines in this field, taking into account factors which influence business practices in each country, and to report on these by the 1999 Ministerial.

19. Ministers also noted that the quality of public sector management is essential for effective government and encouraged comparative analysis in this area. They welcomed the recent approval of the OECD Recommendation on Improving Ethical Conduct in the Public Service in Member countries, and asked to receive a

report on this issue in 2000.

20. Ministers also reiterated the importance of regulatory reform in increasing economic growth and efficiency, and the ability of economies to adapt. The launch of the country review process, initially involving the Netherlands, United States, Japan and Mexico, will contribute to Member countries' efforts in this regard. They look forward to receiving a synthesis report on these reviews in 1999. They wish to enhance this process with reviews of additional Member countries in 1999 and beyond.

The Electronic World

21. The electronic world has potentially far-reaching implications for many facets of life, including the organisation of work and employment, the means of conducting commercial transactions, and the operation of government and the private sector. It also provides new business challenges and opportunities, including for small and medium-sized enterprises. To help this technology reach its potential, Ministers expressed their intention to work for agreement in the WTO on trade aspects relating to electronic commerce. Ministers welcomed the OECD's work on electronic commerce, recognising that the Organisation is well placed to examine the economic and social implications of these new technologies, and to contribute in specific areas such as trade policy, taxation, electronic authentication, consumer protection, privacy and security. They look forward to the ministerial Conference on electronic commerce, to be held in Ottawa in October. That Conference will seek to develop, in consultation with the private sector and other international organisations, a coherent 'action plan' for public policy and self-regulatory action, with the goal of realising the potential of global electronic commerce.

22. As the year 2000 approaches, Ministers agreed on the importance of rapidly adapting computer systems in order to avoid the potential for significant disruption due to the so-called "millennium bug". They stated their intention to meet this challenge and recognised the need to exchange information among governments and to work with the private sector, as appropriate, to ensure that the problem is resolved in a timely and comprehensive manner. They also called on the OECD to promote global awareness of the Year 2000 problem and its potential economic impact, and to report to the Ottawa ministerial Conference on electronic commerce.

STRENGTHENING THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

23. In view of the upcoming WTO Ministerial, which is being held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the multilateral trading system, Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitment to the multilateral system. They attached the utmost importance to maintaining open markets and sustaining the momentum of liberalisation. They stressed their resolve to ensure full and timely implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, to strictly adhere to WTO rules, and to pursue the process of broad-based trade liberalisation, including in new areas. To this effect Ministers encouraged vigorous efforts in the WTO based on the built-in agenda agreed at the end of the Uruguay Round, together with the WTO work programme as agreed at Singapore. Ministers welcomed that exploration of the possible scope and modalities for further liberalisation and rulemaking had begun and stressed the importance of advancing toward an international consensus. In this context, Ministers expressed their support for complementing existing WTO

mandates by addressing remaining barriers to trade in industrial products and for further liberalisation in the information technology area. Ministers reaffirmed the OECD's important role in support of the multilateral system and the WTO's preparations for future negotiations. They recognised that further integration of developing and transition countries into the multilateral system remains a high priority, and that it is important to remain responsive to their needs. In this context, particular attention should be given to enhancing opportunities for the least developed countries, and to helping them build the capacities needed to benefit from those opportunities. Ministers also supported the early accession on commercially viable terms of applicants to the WTO, while preserving the integrity of WTO rules.

24. Ministers noted that OECD Agriculture Ministers had, at their March meeting, reaffirmed that, in conformity with the conditions of Article 20 of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture and including all the elements contained therein, further trade negotiations are due to continue the ongoing process towards the long-term objective of substantial progressive reductions in support and protection resulting in fundamental reform. Ministers also noted that Agriculture Ministers had adopted a broad set of shared goals and policy principles covering all aspects of agricultural policy reform, and that those Ministers had: stressed that agro-food policies should seek to strengthen the intrinsic complementarities between the shared goals, thereby allowing agriculture to manifest its multifunctional character in a transparent, targeted and efficient manner; and had agreed that the challenge in pursuing the shared goals is to use a range of well-targeted policy measures and approaches which can ensure that the growing concerns regarding food safety, food security, environmental protection and the viability of rural areas are met in ways that maximise benefits, are most cost-efficient, and avoid distortion of production and trade.

25. Ministers also renewed their support for the observance of internationally recognised core labour standards and the goal of reaching agreement on an ILO declaration and follow-up mechanism. They noted the important role of the social partners in the process. Ministers also rejected use of labour standards for protectionist purposes.

26. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and to continue to update them in a timely manner, to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.

27. Ministers urged the early ratification of the OECD Shipbuilding Agreement by all participants to establish normal competitive conditions within the international shipbuilding market and to encourage other countries to become parties to the Agreement. Noting that the Agreement's original target date for implementation was January 1996, Ministers called on all signatories to ratify the Agreement as quickly as possible.

28. Ministers noted with satisfaction the 20th anniversary of the Export Credit Arrangement. It has proved to be a highly successful means of achieving rules-based disciplines on export credits. They welcomed the positive efforts undertaken in the area of premia following the adoption of the 1997 Guidelines. Ministers regretted, however, that an Understanding covering agricultural export credits has not been concluded, but remain convinced that the appropriate forum in which to continue debating the matter is provided by the meetings of the Participants to the Arrangement. Noting the outstanding undertaking on this issue in the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, they urged the Participants to reach an agreement as soon as possible and to report back on this matter at their 1999 Ministerial meeting.

29. Ministers welcomed the signing in December 1997 of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and the subsequent legislative steps taken by Participating countries. They underlined their commitment to speedy ratification and implementation to allow the Convention to enter into force by 31 December 1998. They stressed the importance for all Participating countries to eliminate tax deductibility of bribes. Finally, they asked for a report in 1999 on the implementation of the Convention and on the progress made in the work planned on the following issues: bribery acts in relation with foreign political parties; advantages promised or given to any person in anticipation of that person becoming a foreign public official; bribery of foreign public officials as a predicate offence for money laundering legislation; the role of foreign subsidiaries and of offshore centres in bribery transactions. Ministers asked the OECD to promote wider participation in the Convention and its follow-up among non-participating countries.

30. Ministers welcomed the decision of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Ministerial meeting to extend its work for a further five years and the new strategy it has adopted. They also noted the FATF decision to promote the establishment of a world-wide anti-money laundering network based on adequate expansion of membership.

31. Ministers* welcomed the Report "Harmful Tax Competition: an Emerging Global Issue" and recognised that it represents a step forward towards curbing harmful tax practices. Ministers underlined the commitment to intensify efforts in this area at the national, bilateral, and multilateral levels. They welcomed the establishment of Guidelines on Harmful Preferential Tax Regimes, the commitment to draw up a list of tax havens and the creation of a Forum on Harmful Tax Practices. Ministers look forward to receiving periodic reports on the progress in implementing the recommendations set out in the Report.

32. Ministers encouraged the OECD to pursue further, and to broaden, its work in order to carry out fully the mandate given by Ministers in 1996 to develop measures to counter the distorting effect of harmful tax competition on investment and financial decisions, including real economic activities, and to associate non-member countries with this work.

33. Ministers also welcomed the OECD Recommendation on measures against "hard core" cartels which was agreed in March. They called on Member countries to halt and deter the operations of such cartels, which have damaging effects on consumers and businesses around the world and to co-operate in their efforts to this end. They invited non-member countries to associate themselves with the Recommendation.

OECD'S CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

34. Ministers noted with satisfaction the measures undertaken over the last year to improve the coherence and efficiency of the OECD's co-operative relations with non-members. They urged the Organisation to continue to strengthen these relations in a flexible and open but differentiated way, on a basis of mutual interest, with both emerging and transition economies. The ongoing, mutually beneficial dialogue should focus increasingly on the core activities of the Organisation, and on issues of particular importance for the successful integration of these economies into the international economic system. Ministers welcomed the growing interest of non-members in participating in the work of the Organisation.

35. Ministers reiterated that the OECD must remain open, on the basis of mutual interest, to membership by countries sharing the same values, while being selective and preserving the Organisation's tradition of high standards for membership, as well as its efficiency and relevance to its Members. Ministers also welcomed the continuing commitment to market-oriented reform by the Russian government. They called on the Russian Federation to participate more fully in co-operative activities with the OECD, which aim to help Russia establish a fully-fledged market economy within the framework of effective democratic institutions, as well as to meet and sustain the necessary conditions for future membership of the Organisation, the ultimate shared goal of both parties. They welcomed the continuing interest of certain emerging and transition countries in OECD membership. Ministers agreed that the accession process of the Slovak Republic should be concluded as soon as this country is ready and able to share the common values and assume all the responsibilities of OECD Members.

36. Ministers welcomed the steady progress being made in implementing the OECD's partnership strategy to help developing countries build their own capacities for development. Dialogue and joint review with partner countries are pointing to concrete changes in strengthening their local ownership and reducing aid dependency. This strategic agenda involves work on: agreed indicators of progress in economic well-being, social development, environmental sustainability and good governance; as well as on tested poverty-reduction strategies. Its success will be based on increased policy coherence, especially to help developing countries secure sustainable development, assemble the necessary financial resources and integrate successfully into the global economy. Ministers requested the Secretariat to submit a report to their meeting in 1999 on the links between trade and investment and development, and the role that the OECD might play in promoting greater policy coherence. At the same time, Ministers recognised the importance of substantial levels of official development assistance, in particular for the poorest countries, as a means of helping developing countries maximise their prospects for growth and for achieving the goals of the partnership strategy. They welcomed the work being undertaken to stem unproductive expenditure, including excessive military expenditure, in developing countries and recognised the importance of improving the coherence of Members' relevant policies and programmes with this aim. Ministers look forward to the scheduled full review in 1999 of the implementation of the development partnership strategy. Ministers welcomed the agreed mandate to work on a Recommendation on untying of official development assistance for the least developed countries, with a text to be proposed in 1999. They also welcomed the new Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Co-operation.

37. Ministers agreed that the achievement of sustainable development is a key priority for OECD countries. They encouraged the elaboration of the Organisation's strategy for wide-ranging efforts over the next three years in the areas of climate change, technological development, sustainability indicators, and the environmental impact of subsidies. They welcomed the Shared Goals for Action adopted by OECD Environment Ministers at their April meeting. Ministers recognised that all OECD countries, on the basis of their differentiated responsibilities, need to play their part in combating climate change by implementing national strategies, including measures such as clear targets and effective regulatory and economic measures, as well as through international co-operation. In this regard, OECD analysis will be critical in helping Member countries find the most efficient and effective ways to meet Kyoto targets. Ministers asked the OECD to enhance its dialogue with non-member countries in these areas and to engage them more actively, including through shared analyses and development of strategies for implementing sustainable development.

Ministers further noted that, as part of the Shared Goals, Environment Ministers stressed the crucial importance of strong environmental policies in the implementation of sustainable development. Ministers agreed to interpret the term 'sustainable' as including social and environmental, as well as economic, considerations. The Organisation is well-placed to exploit its multidisciplinary expertise in this area and to pursue the integration of economic, environmental and social policies to enhance welfare. In this regard, Ministers stressed the importance of promoting effective integration of environmental considerations in the multilateral system.

38. Ministers welcomed the Secretary-General's achievements in reforming the Organisation and emphasised the importance of the work currently underway on committee and directorate restructuring and on the decision-making process. They believe that continued efforts to renew, streamline and refocus the Organisation can further enhance its value as a resource for Member countries at a time of rapid change. They recognised the importance of returning the Organisation to a stable and predictable budgetary climate as soon as possible. Ministers called for renewed efforts to prioritise the OECD's work, recognising the important role that Members themselves must play in working with the Secretary-General in this regard. They stressed that the multidisciplinary, forward-looking nature of the Organisation's work is important in helping countries deal with the complex problems of a globalising world. Ministers noted the positive accomplishments of the OECD and encouraged the Organisation to continue to adapt to the changing needs of its Members. Ministers reaffirmed their strong support for the Organisation and committed to work toward strengthening its role in the global economy of tomorrow.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT (MAI)

1. Ministers regard investment, like trade, as an engine of economic growth, employment, sustainable development and rising living standards in both developed and developing countries. They re-affirm the importance they attach to achieving a comprehensive multilateral framework for investment with high standards of liberalisation and investment protection with effective dispute settlement procedures, and open to non-member countries. They also recognise the importance of the public debate on the implications of globalisation.
2. Ministers welcome the Report by the Chairman of the Negotiating Group on the progress made since the Ministerial meeting of May 1997 in developing a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).
3. Taking into account the positive results produced by the Negotiating Group, as well as the remaining difficulties and the concerns that have been expressed, Ministers decide on a period of assessment and further consultation between the negotiating parties and with interested parts of their societies, and invite the Secretary-General to assist this process. Ministers note that the next meeting of the Negotiating Group will be held in October 1998. Ministers direct the negotiators to continue their work with the aim of reaching a successful and timely conclusion of the MAI and seeking broad participation in it. In the same spirit, they support the current work programme on investment in the WTO and once the work programme has been completed will seek the support of all their partners for next steps towards the creation of investment rules in the WTO.

4. Ministers recognise the need to complete work on MAI disciplines and exceptions with a view to achieving a high standard of liberalisation and a satisfactory balance of commitments, which takes full account of economic concerns and political, social and cultural sensitivities. A solution is also needed for particular issues relating to extraterritoriality.

5. Ministers confirm that the MAI must be consistent with the sovereign responsibility of governments to conduct domestic policies. The MAI would establish mutually beneficial international rules which would not inhibit the normal non-discriminatory exercise of regulatory powers by governments and such exercise of regulatory powers would not amount to expropriation.

6. Ministers note the increased convergence of views on the need for the MAI to address environmental protection and labour issues, and the broad support for including a strong commitment by governments not to lower environmental or labour standards in order to attract or retain an investment.

7. Ministers are committed to a transparent negotiating process and to active public discussion on the issues at stake in the negotiations.

8. Ministers welcome the full participation as Observers of Argentina; Brazil; Chile; Estonia; Hong Kong, China; Latvia; Lithuania and the Slovak Republic with a view to their becoming founding members of the MAI. Ministers are committed to pursue an active dialogue with non-members, including on their development interests, particularly with those non-members willing and able to meet the obligations of the agreement.

* Luxembourg and Switzerland (for the reasons set out in Annex 2 of the Report) abstained in Council on the approval of the Report and the adoption of the Recommendation and are not bound by this text and its recommendations; accordingly they do not associate themselves with this paragraph.


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News Release

April 29, 1998

No. 105

MARCHI RELEASES NAFTA COMMISSION JOINT STATEMENT

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi welcomed the release today in Paris of the Joint Statement of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Commission following the fifth Commission meeting.

Mr. Marchi said he was satisfied with the results of the meeting today, which accelerated the elimination of tariffs on a number of priority products for Canadian industry. This acceleration will result in a more rapid levelling of tariff rates among NAFTA partners.

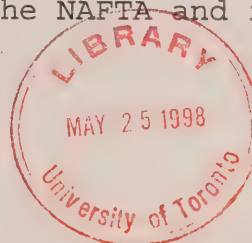
"The NAFTA has been a tremendous benefit to Canadians of all walks of life, and our ongoing work will ensure that the NAFTA continues to serve as a vibrant force for job creation and growth in the Canadian economy," said Mr. Marchi. He pointed out that trade between the three countries amounted to almost C\$600 billion in 1997.

"I look forward to welcoming my colleagues to Canada for the NAFTA Commission meeting in 1999, which will mark the fifth anniversary of the NAFTA's implementation. This will serve as an ideal opportunity to showcase the impressive success of the NAFTA, as well as to bring increased transparency to the operation of the Agreement and to broaden public understanding of its importance," added Mr. Marchi.

Mr. Marchi also noted there was agreement among NAFTA parties to encourage the business communities in the three countries to establish closer links.

He added that there was agreement to continue to work closely with the ministers of the environment and labour in NAFTA countries in the implementation of the NAFTA and its side agreements.

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News Release

April 29, 1998

No. 106

AXWORTHY TABLES GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ON CANADA AND THE CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today renewed the Government of Canada's commitment to northern issues and circumpolar relations as he tabled the government's response to a standing committee report on the subject.

"The standing committee report and our response to it are a timely reminder of the growing importance of northern and circumpolar issues to Canada's foreign policy agenda," said Mr. Axworthy. "As the report points out, the government's continued and renewed commitment to northern issues and challenges will be vital in order to develop domestic and foreign policies that will enhance sustainable opportunities for Aboriginal people and other northerners."

Canada and the Circumpolar World: Meeting the Challenge of Co-operation into the Twenty-First Century was released by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade last November, following extensive hearings in the North and across Canada. The report made 49 recommendations on Arctic issues, each of which the government has addressed in the response tabled in the House of Commons today.

"I welcome the focus and the opportunity provided by the Standing Committee to address northern issues," said Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. "Together with our Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal partners, we are engaged in a broad range of initiatives to address the environmental, political and economic aspirations of northerners. The work of the Standing Committee assists us in these efforts."

Most of the Committee's recommendations support and reinforce current government policy on the North in general, and on circumpolar relations in particular. Some notable examples include:

- the government's leadership in northern circumpolar issues, including its significant role in helping to establish the Arctic Council. Canada is chairing the Council and hosting the Secretariat in its first year;



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- the government's strong commitment to raising the visibility of northern and circumpolar issues, in particular through the leadership and co-ordination of the Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Mary Simon;
- the government's long-standing commitment to sustainable development, including specific applications in the North through the sustainable development strategies of other departments with programs and interests in the North; and
- the recently announced policy statement, "Gathering Strength: Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan," which, among other things, sets out northern initiatives to address issues and challenges raised in the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

The report also notes that Canada and the territorial governments will host the first international circumpolar conference on Sustainable Development in the Arctic: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward, to be held in Whitehorse, May 11-14, 1998. "Canada's Circumpolar Relations" is the theme for the 1998 National Forum on International Affairs, sponsored through May and June 1998 by the Centre for Foreign Policy Development. Canada will host the first Arctic Council Ministerial Conference in Iqaluit in September 1998.

Further discussion of Canada's progress on circumpolar relations can be found in the annexed comments by Canada's Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Mary Simon. Her comments also list useful sources of information.

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The government response is on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Internet site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca under the Policy section. Copies are also available from the DFAIT InfoCentre at 1 (800) 267-8376.

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Backgrounder

ARCTIC ACTION: MOVING FORWARD

COMMENTS BY CANADA'S AMBASSADOR FOR CIRCUMPOLAR AFFAIRS, MARY SIMON

In 1993, the Canadian government made a commitment to renew the objectives for Canada's circumpolar affairs and to link more closely its international and domestic action for the Arctic. It did so and set out the renewed objectives in the document *1994 Government Response to the Foreign Policy Review by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SCFAIT)*.

Since then, Canada has made steady progress on the international front.

In 1994, I was appointed as Canada's first Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs. An important part of my mandate was to reinvigorate the discussions to create an Arctic Council between the eight Arctic States. Canada's objective was to create an Arctic Council that would have a mandate covering a wide range of social and economic issues, as well as integrating the existing environmental mandates of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS).

For the Council, Canada also initiated a membership new to international organizations, based on the AEPS model for involving indigenous organizations. This new category, called "Permanent Participant Status," permits full participation of international Arctic indigenous organizations that meet the criteria established in the Arctic Council Declaration. The Arctic Council also provides for the presence of Observers, who must also go through an accreditation process.

On September 19, 1996, ministers formally inaugurated the Arctic Council in Ottawa. Members of the Arctic Council include Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. As well, the recognized Permanent Participant organizations were present.

The mandate of the Arctic Council is extremely important. For example, contaminants or transboundary pollutants, which are found in the environment, wildlife and fish, are potential threats to human health. In addition, the economic and social conditions in the circumpolar region need to be recognized and addressed by the circumpolar nations.

Canada is the Arctic Council's first Chair and is host to the Secretariat on a rotating two-year basis. The Arctic Council is

presided over by Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs), in between ministerial meetings, which take place every two years. I am the SAO for Canada.

In the Council's first two years, the challenge was to achieve agreement on its rules of procedure, including the role and membership criteria for new Permanent Participants and Observers. The SAOs also negotiated and agreed on the terms of reference for the Sustainable Development Program. The Council has also integrated the existing programs and commitments of the AEPS, for example, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) State of the Arctic Environment Report. In September 1998, in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada will host the first Arctic Council ministerial meeting and will hand over the Chair to another country. I am confident that Canada will hand over a functioning and active Council.

Establishing the Arctic Council was not our only activity over the past few years.

The last AEPS ministerial meeting, held in Alta, Norway, in June 1997, formally transferred the responsibility for the commitment and continuing work on the environment to the Arctic Council. Particular attention was paid to the *State of the Arctic Environment Report* where extensive research and work had been done during the six-year mandate of the AEPS.

Canadian parliamentarians held hearings and conferences in 1996 throughout the Canadian North, touching on Canada's circumpolar policies, by both the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) and the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SCFAIT) on circumpolar affairs.

The internationally based Inuit Circumpolar Conference initiated a project with Russian indigenous peoples on institutional capacity building.

As well, we are making linkages with other multilateral forums, including the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the UN Environmental Program, the UN Special Session on Environment and Sustainable Development, the Biodiversity conferences, transatlantic and (soon) global negotiations on persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Other international action on issues that particularly affect the North and where the implications for the Canadian North are taken into account include:

- Negotiating and signing the North America-Europe Agreement on Persistent Organic Pollutants and pushing for a global POPs agreement.

- Action on climate change and global warming.
- International connections for northern companies, including Aboriginal small to medium-sized enterprises, with a new dedicated trade position within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).
- Support for advocacy campaigns abroad, for example, the effort in the United States to create an Alaskan wildlife refuge for caribou calving grounds and the defence of fur trapping within the European Community.
- International co-operation programs with Russia: democratic development to assist northern Russians in establishing a voice in decisions about the land, setting up networks of community centres and health programs, tackling nuclear waste and industrial pollution, control systems for safer transport, preventing and dealing with oil spills, and scientific and conservation studies.

Add to this the domestic discussions on northern issues by other federal departments that touch on circumpolar relations: the extensive domestic consultations by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) on their Gathering Strength Strategy and by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) on the Arctic component of their Oceans Strategy.

On the international horizon:

- Continuing review of Canada's circumpolar policies and objectives, with input from the policy debates on circumpolar relations at the 1998 National Forum organized by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development in May 1998.
- Continued integration with related domestic policies as domestic policy advances.
- More resources for international work, with a new Aboriginal and Circumpolar Issues Division at DFAIT.
- At the Arctic Council, hosting the ministerial meeting in Iqaluit in September and passing the Chair to another country. Canada has been working on an initiative for the Children and Youth of the Arctic, which will be proposed at this meeting.
- Global POPs negotiations, which are now due to start in June 1998.
- Celebration of the UN International Year of the Ocean. This is the theme of the World Expo in Lisbon, throughout the

summer of 1998. The Canadian pavilion will focus on northern oceans and Canada's advanced mapping and other ocean technologies.

Useful Sources:

Copies of the SCFAIT Report are available from the Clerk of the SCFAIT Committee at (613) 996-1533.

The Arctic Council Web site at www.nrc.ca/arctic/ has many Council documents, as well as links to Arctic-related sites. The AMAP Report is available here.

A summary of Canada's own state of the environment report, Canadian Arctic Contaminants Assessment Report, is available through DIAND's regional office in Yukon (867) 667-3146 and Northwest Territories (867) 669-2579.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)'s Web site describes Canada-Russian projects at www.acdi-cida.gc.ca, under the Central and Eastern Europe section.

The DIAND Web site at www.inac.gc.ca has information about their Gathering Strength initiative and other issues.

The DFO Web site at www.ncr.dfo.ca contains information on the Oceans Strategy. Canada's Year of the Ocean Web site is at www.oceanscanada.com. The Lisbon Expo Web site is at www.expo98.pt.

News Release

April 30, 1998

No. 107

MARCHI WELCOMES QUAD MEETING CONCLUSIONS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed in Versailles, France, the results of the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' (Quad) Meeting on global trade issues.

"This has been a real success in both tone and substance," Mr. Marchi said of the meeting of representatives from Canada, the United States, Japan, and the European Union. "It has reinforced Canada's own emphasis on engaging the public in international trade and investment issues. Clearly, Canadians are increasingly aware of our stake in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in regional trade agreements, and they want to continue to have active input into the policy-making process."

He noted that an important step is the Quad's call for greater openness in the activities of the WTO.

In addition, Mr. Marchi said he is pleased that the Quad:

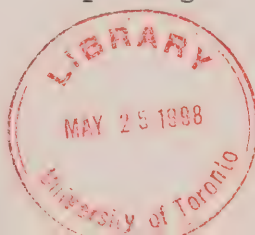
- supported an active work program on trade and investment issues, laying the groundwork for discussions at the WTO Ministerial meeting in 1999;
- endorsed the recent declaration of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in support of negotiations toward a multilateral agreement on investment and the need for further public consultations; and
- agreed to call a high level meeting of trade and environment representatives prior to the WTO Ministerial in 1999, and to work toward a successful International Labour Organization (ILO) meeting in June on core labour standards.

He also noted that the Quad gave support to the upcoming Ottawa Ministerial Conference on Global Electronic Commerce, and agreed with Canada's call to work toward a "standstill" agreement to continue the current practice of not imposing tariffs on electronic transmissions.



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Finally, Minister Marchi noted the convergence of work on trade and investment liberalization and the key role that Canada plays in promoting an integrated approach.

"Throughout the last three or four days, at the OECD, at the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Commission meeting, and at the Quad, it was clear that regional and multilateral forums are complementary in permitting Canada to pursue our trade interests and national values," Mr. Marchi said.

In addition to Mr. Marchi, the Quad representatives at the Versailles meeting included U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, Japanese Minister of Industry and Trade Mitsuo Horiuchi, and Vice-President of the European Commission Sir Leon Brittan. As Chair of the meeting, Sir Leon Brittan issued the final statement of the Quad.

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The statement is available upon request.

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News Release

May 1, 1998

No. 108

**CANADIAN INSTITUTION LEADING NEWLY ESTABLISHED ASIAN
EQUITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the establishment of a US\$400 million Asia Equity Infrastructure Fund, with lead sponsorship by the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ) and support from the Asian Development Bank (AsDB). The fund was announced by the CDPQ at AsDB's annual meeting held in Geneva April 29 to May 1.

"This fund, the largest Canadian-led investment fund in the Bank so far, represents a significant contribution to further strengthening the links between Canada and the Asia-Pacific region," said Mr Axworthy, who is Governor for Canada of the Asian Development Bank. "It also testifies to the excellent relationship that has developed over more than 30 years between Canada and the Asian Development Bank."

As lead sponsor, the CDPQ will contribute US\$200 million and, as co-sponsor, the AsDB will contribute US\$20 million. The balance will be raised from within the private sector in both Canada and Asia. The AsDB-CDPQ agreement establishing the fund constitutes the largest single joint project between the AsDB and a Canadian institution.

The Asia Equity Infrastructure Fund will invest in infrastructure projects in energy, environment, transportation and telecommunications. It will take a proactive approach in countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, among others. The turning point in discussions between the CDPQ and the AsDB was the high-level meeting that took place in Manila during the 1997 Team Canada visit.

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News Release

May 6, 1998

No. 109

CANADA ASKS THE UNITED STATES TO AGREE TO A JOINT REFERRAL OF THE WATER EXPORT ISSUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today asked the United States to agree to refer the issue of boundary water exports, including water taken from the Great Lakes, to the International Joint Commission (IJC). Under this reference, the IJC would be asked to make recommendations by October 1998 on the consumption, diversion and export of boundary waters.

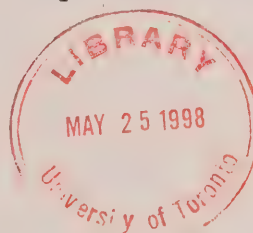
"Boundary waters are a priceless resource belonging to the peoples of Canada and the United States. Our governments have a responsibility to manage this resource and ensure a safe and plentiful supply of clean water. I have written Secretary of State Madeleine Albright asking that she agree to bring this issue to the IJC," said Minister Axworthy.

The referral of this issue to the IJC was prompted by a permit, granted to an Ontario company by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, for the annual export of 600 million litres of Lake Superior water to Asia until the year 2002. The company has since offered to surrender its permit.

The IJC is an independent binational organization established under the Canada-U.S. Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. Its central role is to prevent and resolve disputes and to examine issues of mutual interest concerning waters that cross or lie on the Canada-U.S. border.

The Government of Canada is looking at broad solutions to the issue of water exports across the country. As part of its long-term approach to water resource management, the federal government will be consulting with the provinces this summer on a fresh water strategy that covers all key water issues facing Canada, including water exports.

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News Release

May 6, 1998

No. 110

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT CHIAPAS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that a multi-party delegation of Canadian Members of Parliament will visit Mexico from May 8 to 12 to assess the situation in Chiapas firsthand.

"Canada has followed the events in Chiapas very closely for several years," said Mr. Axworthy. "Both Canadians and the international community will benefit from an accurate, objective assessment of conditions in the region. I look forward to the delegation's report to me on their return."

The Members of Parliament who will visit Mexico City and Chiapas are: delegation leader Jacques Saada (Brossard-La Prairie); Daniel Turp (Beauharnois-Salaberry); David Iftody (Provencher); Diane St. Jacques (Shefford); and Dick Proctor (Palliser).

The delegation will meet with a broad cross-section of Mexican government representatives and citizens involved in the future of the region.

In Mexico City, the Members of Parliament will meet the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Juan Rebolledo; the government's chief negotiator on Chiapas, Emilio Rabasa; and representatives from various non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In Chiapas, the delegation will visit Red Cross refugee camps near the site of the December 1997 Acteal massacre, and will meet Bishop Samuel Ruiz and members of Mexico's National Human Rights Commission (CNDH). The Members of Parliament will also meet with other government and NGO representatives in Altamirano, (Chiapas), and Mexico City to discuss social development, constitutional reform and other issues.

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News Release

May 7, 1998

No. 111

THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND BRAZIL WELCOME REPORT OF SPECIAL ENVOYS ON REGIONAL AIRCRAFT

The Government of Canada today announced that the Special Envoys appointed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso have submitted their report on means for resolving the dispute between Canada and Brazil regarding support for exports of regional aircraft.

"President Cardoso and I welcome this report. The Special Envoys have provided us with a good framework and sound basic principles for resolving our differences concerning government support for regional aircraft sales," said the Prime Minister.

The Canadian Special Envoy is the Honourable Marc Lalonde, currently a partner with Stikeman, Elliott in Montreal. The Brazilian Special Envoy is Dr. Luiz Olavo Baptista of the University of São Paulo.

"Our officials will negotiate, over the next two months, a bilateral agreement based on the recommendations of the Envoys," added the Prime Minister. "This bilateral agreement will be consistent with our existing international trade obligations and will ensure that our aerospace companies compete on a level playing field." The dates for the initiation of these negotiations will be established through diplomatic channels.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Background

REPORT OF SPECIAL ENVOYS ON REGIONAL AIRCRAFT

During the Team Canada visit to Brazil in January of this year, the Prime Minister agreed with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to appoint Special Envoys to recommend ways to resolve the dispute between Canada and Brazil over trade in regional aircraft.

On January 29, Prime Minister Chrétien announced the appointment of the Honourable Marc Lalonde as the Canadian Special Envoy. At the same time, President Cardoso designated Dr. Luiz Olavo Baptista. Mr. Lalonde is a former Cabinet Minister and an Officer of the Order of Canada. Since 1984, he has practised corporate and commercial law as a partner with Stikeman, Elliott in Montreal. Dr. Baptista is a professor of international law at the University of São Paulo and a corporate lawyer.

The two Envoys worked together over the past three months, meeting in Canada and in Brazil with officials of the Canadian and Brazilian Governments and with officers of Bombardier and Embraer, and have now submitted their joint recommendations.

Key Recommendations:

The Envoys recommend that the two governments negotiate, within two months, a bilateral accord that:

- is consistent with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement;
- subjects export financing programs to a "common template," using the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Consensus as a model;
- contains a dispute settlement mechanism, including annual consultations and recourse to a neutral and independent Monitor who can review support programs and provide an opinion on their consistency with the bilateral agreement;
- provides for consultations with respect to domestic programs to determine their WTO consistency.

Benefits of an Accord for Canada

When implemented, the bilateral accord should resolve Canada's longstanding concerns regarding the Brazilian export subsidy PROEX and its effect on the market for regional aircraft. The PROEX program reduces the cost of financing for purchasers of Embraer regional jets by 3.8 percent through what are called "interest equalization" payments.

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News Release

May 7, 1998

No. 112

AXWORTHY TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, NORWAY AND IRELAND

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that following his participation in the G-8 Foreign Ministers' meeting in London, May 8 to 9, he will visit Bergen, Norway, May 10 to 11, and Dublin, Ireland, May 14 to 15, to meet with his Norwegian and Irish counterparts.

Mr. Axworthy and Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Knut Vollebaek will discuss a wide range of humanitarian issues in which Canada and Norway have shared interests. These include attaining universal adherence to the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines; co-ordinating efforts to confront the humanitarian effects of the international small arms proliferation; profiling the plight of child soldiers and children in armed conflict; and establishing an International Criminal Court.

Mr. Axworthy's meeting with Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews will echo a number of these same themes, and will also include discussions on European Union (EU) related issues. In this and other discussions with Irish Prime Minister (the Taoiseach) Bertie Ahern, and General (ret) John de Chastelain, the Head of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, Mr. Axworthy will be seeking insight into progress on the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

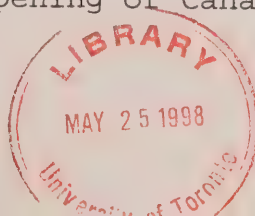
"Norway and Ireland are both valuable partners, and we share similar views on a number of international issues. Both countries, for example, were early supporters of Canada in the campaign to ban landmines. I am eager to hear the views of Mr. Vollebaek and Mr. Andrews on ways we can advance international efforts to bring the Ottawa Treaty into force and implement its provisions," said Mr. Axworthy.

Between his visits to Norway and Ireland, Mr. Axworthy will return to London to attend the reopening of Canada House on



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May 13, which will be presided over by Her Majesty the Queen. He will then join Prime Minister Chrétien at the Canada-EU Summit on May 14.

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May 8, 1998

No. 113

WTO PANEL REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN BAN OF CANADIAN SALMON

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and David Anderson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, confirmed today that Canada and Australia have received the final report from the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Panel regarding Australia's ban on imports of fresh, chilled and frozen salmon from Canada.

Under WTO rules and procedures, Panel reports remain confidential until the final report is circulated to all WTO members, at which time it becomes public. The Panel report on salmon is not expected to be circulated to all WTO members until June. Canada's position has been to honour the confidentiality rules. However, in this particular instance, the Ministers feel compelled to respond to a media release issued on May 6, 1998, by the Australian government, which discussed the details of the confidential report.

"I regret that the Australia media release comments directly on the Panel's findings and recommendations in violation of the confidentiality rules," said Mr. Marchi. "Under the circumstances, I think it is important to clarify Australia's misleading statement that the Panel did not recommend the removal of Australia's import ban," said Mr. Marchi.

"The Panel has found that Australia's ban is inconsistent with several provisions of the WTO Agreement, and has recommended that the Dispute Settlement Body request Australia to bring its measure into conformity with its obligations under the Agreement. In Canada's view, this means that Australia must lift the ban," added the Minister.

"Canada has consistently taken the position that there is no scientific basis for Australia's ban," said Minister Anderson. "Canada exports fresh and frozen salmon to approximately 50 countries, and the quality of our product is recognized worldwide. Australia is the only country that bans these



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products. A lifting of the Australian ban would provide important commercial benefits to Canadian fishermen and processors."

Australia's ban was first introduced in 1975. After years of unsuccessful bilateral efforts to resolve the dispute, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body established a panel on April 10, 1997, at Canada's request.

The objective of the WTO is to secure and enhance market access in goods, services, and intellectual property through predictable, transparent, and enforceable trade rules. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the WTO was established by the Marrakesh Declaration in 1994, and came into force in 1995.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

May 8, 1998

No. 114

MARCHI HOSTS ROUNDTABLE ON MARKETING CANADIAN EDUCATION ABROAD

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today hosted at York University, in Toronto, broadly based consultations to promote Canadian education abroad. Minister Marchi co-hosted the education roundtable with Dr. Lorna Marsden, President of York University.

"We recognize that our exceptional education system is a valuable economic resource, contributing almost \$2.5 billion to our economy – the equivalent of sustaining 21 000 jobs," said Mr. Marchi. "That's the reason we are working in a Team Canada partnership with clients and stakeholders to advance a national marketing strategy. Our overall objective is to attract more international students to Canadian education institutions and to obtain a larger market share of international education contracts."

The consultations involved the provinces, national and regional associations, and representatives of public and private education institutions at all levels.

The Minister announced the creation of a new and permanent dedicated international educational marketing unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. This will provide one-stop shopping for those selling Canadian educational products and services around the world. The unit will report to the Minister for International Trade through the Chief Trade Commissioner.

As well, to complement this, Minister Marchi announced the creation of an Education Marketing Advisory Board, which will report to him directly, twice a year. Members of the Board will be drawn from the widest possible range of the Canadian education community, and will provide advice and guidance to the Minister on Canadian education marketing in a global context. The first meeting is expected to be held in the fall of 1998.

"The quality of Canadian education is recognized worldwide," said Dr. Paul Cappon, Director General, Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC). "We have the potential to market this



expertise and Canadian-developed learning products in the global village. We look forward to working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and our education partners to focus the Canadian presence abroad."

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Backgrounder

EDUCATION MARKETING IN CANADA

The Economic and Foreign Policy case

The Canadian education sector generates great revenues for this country. In 1996, over 99 335 international students studied in Canada. In the same year, it is estimated that international students contributed almost \$2.5 billion to the Canadian economy representing approximately 21 000 Canadian jobs.

International students enrich Canada's campus life, contribute to Canadians acquiring a global outlook, and serve as emissaries for Canada when they go back to their home countries.

International students are viewed as economic and political decision leaders of the future. In turn, students who get to know Canada through good education experiences are more likely to buy Canadian services and products when they return to their homes than those who attend schools in competing nations.

There are 90 degree granting universities and colleges in Canada, over 164 community colleges, a large number of private career colleges, and English and French language schools.

Education Marketing Time Line

On November 1, 1994, the Government of Canada announced its intention to establish a network of up to 10 Canadian Education Centres (CECs) in Asia within five years. The CECs are designed to forge new links with local education institutions and bring to the attention of international students, local corporate and government clients the excellence of Canadian education goods and services.

By January 1998, 10 CECs were established in Taipei, Seoul, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Delhi, Bangkok, Jakarta, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, and Canberra.

From September 1995 to the present, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade identified and tested new education markets, broadened the basis of the education marketing search, and developed new methods of delivering services on behalf of education providers in Canada.

In March 1997, the Canadian Embassy in Caracas, forged a groundbreaking marketing arrangement with the Association Venezolano-Americana de Amistad to market Canadian education goods and services in Venezuela.

On June 19, 1997, the Canadian Embassy in Athens inaugurated the first Education Resource Centre (ERC) in our missions abroad. The ERC has one locally engaged officer dedicated to promoting Canadian education institutions.

In September 1997, a pilot Education Resource Centre was opened in Abu Dhabi to tap into the burgeoning regional Arabian Peninsula market.

In November 1997, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi called for the establishment of up to 15 new education marketing centres by the year 2000.

In January 1998, on the recent Team Canada mission to Latin America, Canada officially inaugurated four new CECs in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

There are currently 17 generic "education marketing centres" (14 CECs, two ERCS (Athens and Abu Dhabi) and one with a local arrangement (Caracas).

Current Situation

The education roundtable has been called to consult with the broadest possible range of representatives of the education sector to advance a global education marketing strategy that will take Canada into the next century.

Issues to be discussed include where the new points of service will be established, timetables for openings, and the most appropriate vehicles to deliver services effectively on behalf of the education suppliers in Canada.

This landmark consultation will include representatives from the provinces, the national and regional education associations, not-for-profit education organizations, public education institutions at all levels and private education providers including career colleges and private language schools.

All parties at the roundtable will have prepared position papers and have present specialists to lead discussions on issues critical to achieving Canada's international education marketing objectives.

News Release

May 11, 1998

No. 115

MARCHI TO LEAD CANADIAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO ITALY

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will lead a Canadian business development mission to Italy, May 18 to 23. Minister Marchi will be accompanied by Minister of Public Works and Government Services Alfonso Gagliano and a delegation of Canadian parliamentarians, as well as representatives of approximately 60 Canadian firms.

"Our visit will serve to reaffirm the importance that we attach to this bilateral relationship, and to identify new opportunities for strengthening our trade and investment ties," said Mr. Marchi.

The Canadian business delegates, representing the aerospace, telecommunications, automotive and other sectors, will participate in a range of business events. These events include business seminars with their Italian partners, a meeting with Italian Communications Minister Antonio Maccanico, sectoral working group sessions, and presentations by key Italian business leaders. The delegation will be in Rome, from May 18 to 20, and in Milan from May 21 to 23.

Italy is Canada's ninth-largest trading partner and twelfth largest export market. Canada's exports to Italy for 1997 amounted to \$1.3 billion, while Italian exports to Canada were \$2.8 billion. Canadian investment in Italy was \$744 million for 1997, while Italian investment in Canada was \$381 million, although final calculations could bring it to approximately \$1 billion.

"As home to 1.5 million Canadians of Italian origin, Canada has a comparative advantage, when it comes to doing business with Italy," said Mr. Marchi. "These strong people-to-people ties between Canada and Italy will continue to shape and enhance our business relationship in the future."

At the same time as the business delegation, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will also be in Italy for an official bilateral visit.



The Prime Minister and Minister Marchi will meet with the Canadian business people in Rome and in Milan.

Prior to the arrival of the business development mission in Italy, Minister Marchi will attend a number of other events in Europe. In London, the Minister will take part in the reopening of Canada House on May 13 and participate in the Canada-European Union Summit with Prime Minister Chrétien on May 14. Minister Marchi will spend May 15 to 18 in Northern Italy promoting the Canada-Italy people-to-people business ties, and will address several business groups including the Turin Industrialists' Association and the Chamber of Commerce of Udine. On May 18 and 19, Mr. Marchi will attend the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference and the 50th anniversary celebration of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

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A draft list of the business delegation is attached.

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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A Draft List of Canadian Companies Participating in the Business Development Mission to Italy

Abipa Canada Inc., Laval Québec

Advanced Cultural Technologies (ACT) Cinemage Group, Vancouver,
British Columbia

Aerospace Industries Association of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

Aerospace Welding Inc., Blainville, Québec

Air Base Property Corporation, North Bay, Ontario

Airport Railing Co. Ltd., Mississauga, Ontario

Altex Extrusion, Laval, Québec

Avantech Software Inc., Montreal Québec

Banca Commerciale Italiana of Canada, Toronto, Ontario

Bell Canada International, Montreal, Québec

Bell Helicopter Textron, Mirabel, Québec

Bombardier Inc. - Canadair, Amphibious Aircraft Division
Montreal, Québec

Bristol Aerospace Limited, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Business Council on National Issues, Ottawa, Ontario

CAE Electronics Ltd., St-Laurent, Québec

Canadian Commercial Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario

Canadian Heritage Information Network, Hull, Québec

Cipher New Media Inc., Toronto, Ontario

Corporation de Développement Économique et Coopération
Internationale du Québec, Montreal, Québec

Delastek Inc., Grand-Mère, Québec

Dellcom Industries Inc., Concord, Ontario

Export Development Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario

Frank De Angelis Construction Limited, Windsor, Ontario

General Electric Inc., Mississauga, Ontario
Heenan Blaikie Law Firm, Montreal, Québec
Héroux Inc., Longueuil Québec
Innovitech Inc., Montreal, Québec
Interfast Inc., Rexdale, Ontario
International Minicut Inc., Montréal-Nord, Québec
Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada, Montréal, Québec
Italpasta Ltd., Brampton, Ontario
K.B. Electronics (1989) Limited, Bedford, Nova Scotia
KPMG, North York, Ontario
LCSI Logo Computer Systems Inc., Montréal, Québec
M.B.M. Tool & Machine Company Limited, Woodbridge, Ontario
Martin Daniel Interiors Inc., Downsview, Ontario
MECCA Media Group, Edmonton, Alberta
Med-Eng Systems Inc., Ottawa, Ontario
Montecassino Place Limited, Downsview, Ontario
Montreal Urban Community Economic Development Office,
Montréal Québec
National Arts Centre, Ottawa, Ontario
National Research Council Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
NorAmerica, Etobicoke, Ontario
Open Learning Agency, Victoria, British Columbia
Pasta D'Aurum (Canada) Inc., Swift Current, Saskatchewan
P.E.I. Department of Economic Development and Tourism,
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Pathfinder Learning Systems Corporation, Toronto, Ontario
Public Technologies Multimédia Inc., Montreal, Québec

Russo Foods Limited, Weston, Ontario

Shade-o-Matic, North York, Ontario

Shaw Communications, Inc., Calgary, Alberta

Silicon Graphics Canada, Mississauga, Ontario

SkyLink Aviation Inc., Toronto, Ontario

Southmedic Inc., Barrie, Ontario

Standard Aero Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba

Watson, Goepel, Maledy Barristers and Solicitors, Vancouver,
British Columbia

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News Release

May 11, 1998

No. 116

**CANADA STRONGLY DEPLORES NUCLEAR TESTS
CARRIED OUT BY INDIA**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today in London strongly deplored the nuclear weapons test explosions carried out by India earlier today, and announced by Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee.

"We are deeply concerned and very disappointed with India's decision to carry out these nuclear tests. This incident is contrary to the international norms established by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)," said Mr. Axworthy. "These tests could have grave implications for global non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as for regional security. We urge India to renounce its nuclear weapons program and to sign on to the NPT and CTBT."

Minister Axworthy announced that the Canadian Government has asked the High Commissioner for Canada in New Delhi to ensure that the Indian government clearly understands Canada's views on this matter.

Minister Axworthy also urged restraint by countries in the region. "On the eve of the G8 Birmingham Summit, G8 heads of state and government will undoubtedly wish to discuss this serious development."

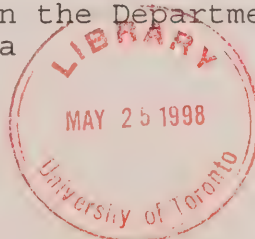
- 30 -

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Nexus Release

May 11, 1998

No. 117

CANADA AND NORWAY FORM NEW PARTNERSHIP ON HUMAN SECURITY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced in Bergen, Norway, the establishment of a new partnership between Canada and Norway to take action on human security issues. The announcement was made at the conclusion of meetings between Mr. Axworthy and his Norwegian counterpart, Mr. Knut Vollebæk.

Outlined in the Lysén Declaration signed by the two Ministers, the partnership commits Canada and Norway to a framework for consultation and concerted action in the areas of enhancing human security, promoting human rights, strengthening humanitarian law, preventing conflict, and fostering democracy and good governance.

"As we saw in the development of the Landmines Treaty, "soft power" techniques, such as ideas, negotiation and bridge building, have become effective new tools of international diplomacy," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada's partnership with Norway throughout the process that led to the Treaty demonstrates that our shared values and approaches to foreign policy can make a difference in the international agenda. We want to build on that success and expand it to other areas."

Ministers Axworthy and Vollebæk will meet at least once a year to review progress, set priorities and impart direction, and bilateral teams will develop and implement joint activities. Partnerships between governments, international and non-governmental organizations, and other elements of civil society will be developed and enhanced throughout the process.

The two Ministers agreed to an agenda for action including: the landmines issue; the establishment of an international criminal court; human rights; international humanitarian law; women and children in armed conflict; small arms proliferation; child soldiers; child labour; and northern and Arctic co-operation.

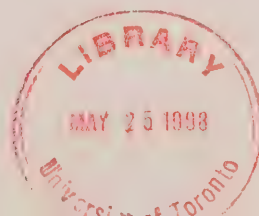
- 30 -

The Lysén Declaration and the Partnership Agenda are attached.



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Backgrounder

NORWAY-CANADA PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION

THE LYSÇEN DECLARATION

Norway and Canada share common values and approaches to foreign policy. With the evolution of international affairs, particularly with regard to emerging human security issues, we have agreed to establish a framework for consultation and concerted action.

Shared Objectives

To enhance foreign policy consultations and co-operation on priority issues of international concern.

To strengthen Arctic and northern co-operation.

To co-ordinate and concert actions with a view to:

- enhancing human security;
- promoting human rights;
- strengthening humanitarian law;
- preventing conflict; and
- fostering democracy and good governance.

To develop and enhance partnerships between governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society.

Framework

To achieve these foreign policy objectives, we agree to establish a flexible framework for consultation and co-operation, to include:

- Ministerial meetings at least once a year to review progress, set priorities and impart direction.
- Bilateral teams to develop and implement joint ministerial initiatives.
- Meetings to be held alternately in Norway and Canada or, where convenient, on the margins of international meetings.

In pursuing these goals, we will seek the advice and involvement of civil society and relevant international bodies.

Using the bilateral co-operation framework as a basis, we intend, where practicable, to involve other countries as well.

Bergen, May 11, 1998

PARTNERSHIP AGENDA

1. Landmines
2. International Criminal Court
3. Human rights
4. International humanitarian law
5. Women and children in armed conflict
6. Small arms proliferation
7. Child soldiers
8. Child labour
9. Arctic and northern co-operation

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News Release

May 11, 1998

No. 118

MARCHI REPORTS ON CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today released the second annual report on Canada's international business development (IBD) endeavours. The report, entitled *Achievements of the International Business Development Program 1997/98*, focusses on the results and achievements of the government's IBD efforts. The report was tabled in the House of Commons today by Julian Reed, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Trade.

"Canada's exports reached another record high last year," said Mr. Marchi. "We can attribute this success, in part, to our international business development activities. While this is good news, we must continue to work hand-in-hand with our provincial and private sector partners to sustain this momentum. The Team Canada partnership will help Canadian exporters become even more competitive in the global arena."

The centrepiece of the IBD program is the recently created Team Canada Inc network of service providers led by three federal government departments: Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Industry Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. These core departments are working together to provide enhanced programs and services to the Canadian business community.

"Our IBD initiatives are not only paving the way for more Canadian companies to venture into new markets, but also are attracting foreign investment to Canada by providing targeted and cost-effective programs and services. The continuing success of Canadian companies abroad is being translated directly into increased economic growth and job creation here at home," said Mr. Marchi.

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May 12, 1998

No. 119

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CANADA CONGRATULATES NORAD ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and National Defence Minister Art Eggleton today congratulated the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) on its 40th anniversary.

"The agreement reached 40 years ago between Canada and the United States on continental air defence remains as vital today as it was when it was created," said Mr. Axworthy. "Although the Cold War is over, NORAD has adapted to a changing world and will continue to play a critical role in the defence and security of North America."

NORAD has been the cornerstone of Canada-U.S. defence co-operation since its formal inception on May 12, 1958. The original purpose of the agreement was to provide air defence against long-range Soviet bombers. That role expanded during the Cold War to include deterrence and early warning missile attack. As its role changed, so did its name – "aerospace" replaced "air" in 1981.

"I am proud to salute the professionalism and dedication of the men and women of Canada and the United States who have protected us through the changes of the last four decades," said Mr. Eggleton. "Today, NORAD is involved in a large number of activities that protect and enhance the well-being of Canadians."

During the 1990s, NORAD has been transformed from a largely Cold War defence arrangement to one that meets the challenges of this decade and beyond. NORAD's mission reflects the new strategic environment, focussing on aerospace warning and aerospace control for North America. Its activities include the monitoring of man-made objects in space; surveillance and control – including air defence – over Canadian and U.S. airspace; and the detection, validation and warning of aerospace attacks against North America.



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NORAD provides a major gateway for Canadian participation in space, through operations, activities and related research and technology. It is also an important vehicle for the implementation of Canadian space programs under the Joint Space Project. In addition, it plays a significant role in combatting the trafficking in illegal drugs en route to North America, and monitors the orbital decay of space objects, providing warning and predicted points of impact on earth.

Canada's national capabilities in communications, surveillance, navigation, meteorology, mapping, intelligence and arms control verification are all enhanced by its participation in NORAD.

- 30 -

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NEWS RELEASE

May 12, 1998

No. 120

CANADA RECALLS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced in London that Canada's High Commissioner in New Delhi is being recalled to Canada following the nuclear weapons test explosions carried out by India yesterday.

"We are recalling our High Commissioner to India as a first concrete step in signalling our disapproval to the Indian government," stated Mr. Axworthy. "We will be consulting with High Commissioner Walker to determine the best course of action in response to India's clear breach of international security."

In Ottawa today, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan reiterated that "Canada strongly urges India to sign on to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We also urge countries in the region to show restraint in their reaction to yesterday's incident."

Peter Walker has been Canada's High Commissioner to India since October 1997. He will be returning to Canada this week for an indeterminate period of time.

- 30 -

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News Release

May 14, 1998

No. 121

MINISTERS AXWORTHY AND MARCHI ANNOUNCE NEW YOUTH INTERNSHIPS IN EUROPE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that in addition to the 85 internships in Europe announced on January 16, 11 Canadian organizations will place approximately 55 young Canadians in international internships in Europe. The announcement was made in London, during the Ministers' participation in the Canada-European Union Summit with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission.

The organizations and institutions that will implement the internship projects in the coming year are the Canadian Society for International Health, the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Confederation College, the Southeast Treaty Four Tribal Council, the Canadian Film & Television Production Association, Professional Art Dealers Association of Canada, Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights, Human Rights Internet, the Parliamentary Centre, Project Ploughshares, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

Through these new internships, young Canadians will be able to gain experience in the areas of international health, international affairs, Indigenous issues, film and television production, international trade and commerce, visual arts and human rights. The youth will be placed in foreign government departments, non-governmental organizations, international institutions and the private sector.

"Most people define globalization in terms of large-scale impersonal forces in international trade, finance and economics. Equally important, though, is the birth of a "global commons," said Minister Axworthy. "The internships we are announcing today prepare young people to be effective, engaged members of this new world of partnerships."



The interns will be graduates with relevant backgrounds in areas such as health care, international affairs, film and television production, international commerce, visual arts and others.

"The connections young people make early in their careers are often the most significant," said Minister Marchi. "These internships will give our youth an edge, not only in starting their careers, but also in the experiences that they gain working in an international setting."

These projects are part of the Department's Youth International Internship Program, one segment of the national Youth Employment Strategy. Funding is built into the existing fiscal framework.

Individuals wishing to be interns on these projects should call 1-800-559-2888 or consult the internship Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/youth/menu.htm for eligibility criteria and additional information about application procedures.

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS FOR YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROJECTS IN EUROPE

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) is placing interns with backgrounds in international business, marketing, management, area studies and foreign languages in Canadian companies with growing export markets. Under a partnership between the British Council and AUCC, 10 Canadian graduates will take up internships in the United Kingdom. For more information, please contact:

Pari Johnston, Program Officer
AUCC
600-350 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 1B1
Tel.: (613) 563-3961 ext.303
Fax: (613) 563-9745
E-mail: pjohnsto@aucc.ca

The Canadian Film & Television Production Association (CFTPA) is offering graduates of film and television programs the opportunity to gain practical experience by participating in international co-ventures or co-productions and attending overseas industry-related conferences and trade forums. About five interns will go to Europe to participate in international film productions. For more information, please contact:

Katy Beach
Canadian Film & Television Production Association
20 Toronto Street, Suite 830
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2B8
Tel.: (416) 304-0280 or 1-800-267-8208
Fax: (416) 304-0499
E-mail: training@CFTPA.ca
Web Site: www.ted.cftpa.ca

Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (CANADEM) will place interns with its client organizations in various countries where they will be participating in the design and delivery of human rights operations such as the ones in Rwanda, Guatemala, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Western Sahara and Angola. Candidates should have completed studies in social or

political science, international affairs or law, or other relevant disciplines. Most of the 20 interns will go to Europe. For more information, please contact:

Christine Vincent, Program Officer
CANADEM
1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1102 (CCIC)
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7
Tel.: (613) 789-3328
Fax: (613) 789-6125
E-mail: canadem@ibm.net

The **Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH)** is providing young graduates planning a career in international health with an opportunity to gain practical experience in a recognized health organization in the United States or Europe. Interns should be graduates of programs in medicine, public health, nursing, health administration, health economics, international health or the social and natural sciences. Approximately five placements will be in Europe. For more information, please contact:

Hélène Thibault, Project Co-ordinator
Canadian Society for International Health
1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1105
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7
Tel.: (613) 241-5785 ext. 327
Fax: (613) 241-3845
E-mail: csih@fox.nstn.ca

Confederation College is seeking interns to work in the area of international commerce and trade in Cuba, Ireland, Poland, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States. Interns will be involved in delivering trade projects, conducting market research, sourcing distributors and suppliers, developing partnerships and conducting feasibility studies. A couple of interns will likely go to Europe. For more information, please contact:

Mike Dunlop, International Business Advisor
Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology
1450 Nakina Drive, P.O. Box 398
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 4W1
Tel.: (807) 475-6462
Fax: (807) 623-7250
E-mail: mdunlop@baynet.net

Human Rights Internet will place young Canadian graduates of international relations, international development, area studies or law with human rights organizations overseas, primarily in countries in the South or in societies in transition in Eastern and Central Europe. Interns will work in research, advocacy, documentation, communications and other areas where they are able to make a substantial contribution to the work of the

organization. HRI may send two interns to Eastern Europe. For more information, please contact:

Johanna Myyra, Project Co-ordinator
Human Rights Internet
8 York Street, Suite 202
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5S6
Tel.: (613) 789-7407 Ext. 9202
Fax: (613) 789-7414
E-mail: interns@hri.ca
Web site: <http://www.hri.ca>

The **Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA)** at Carleton University will place interns with private and public sector organizations in the broad field of international affairs. Interns will be exposed to the realities of work in an international environment and to policy-oriented writing. NPSIA may send one or two interns to Europe. For more information, please contact:

Elizabeth James, Project Co-ordinator
DFAIT Youth International Internships
The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs
Carleton University, Level 2A Paterson Hall
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6
Tel.: (613) 520-2600 Ext. 6671
Fax: (613) 520-2889
E-mail: ejames@carleton.ca

The **Parliamentary Centre**, a non-governmental organization that supports democratic development through projects intended to strengthen parliaments, is offering internships in the Congress of Mexico, the Japanese Diet and one in the European Parliament to work on legislation in support of parliamentary committees. For more information, please contact:

Shari Currie, Co-ordinator - International Programs
Parliamentary Centre
250 Albert Street, 4th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M1
Tel.: (613) 237-0143 Ext. 302
Fax: (613) 235-8237
E-mail: parlcent@web.net

Professional Art Dealers Association of Canada (PADAC) is looking for interns to assist in the promotion of visual arts on the international arts scene. Interns will be placed in art galleries where they will be involved in art promotion, organization of exhibitions/craft shows, gallery operations and artwork sales. Overseas placements are available in locations such as Germany,

Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, France and Sweden. About six interns will go to Europe. For more information, please contact:

Asha Croggon
Professional Art Dealers Association of Canada
80 Spadina Avenue, Suite 307
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2J3
Tel.: (416) 703-0061
Fax: (416) 703-0063
E-mail: padac@sympatico.ca

Project Ploughshares is placing interns with partner institutions and organizations in major regions of the world affected by conflict. Internships will focus on peacebuilding and security projects that are timely and substantial, such as light weapons control, the containment of surplus weapons in a postwar situation, the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers, converting defence resources to human development, landmines, and multinational peace operations in Africa. Interns will typically be graduates of peace and conflict studies, political science, history, international studies and communications programs. Two interns will be in Europe – one at Saferworld in London, England, and one at the International Centre for Conversion in Bonn, Germany. For more information, please contact:

Grant Birks, Project Co-ordinator
Project Ploughshares
Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel College
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G6
Tel.: (519) 888-6541 Ext. 269
Fax: (519) 885-0806
E-mail: gfbirks@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca
Web site: <http://www.watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~plough/>

The **Southeast Treaty Four Tribal Council (SET4TC)**, in co-operation with the Ochapowace Indian Education Authority, will provide First Nations Youth with an opportunity to obtain training and experience working in an international environment. Internship activities will include researching indigenous issues, gathering information on country situations that affect minorities and ethnic groups, taking part in working group discussions, preparing reports, and advocating on behalf of targeted minority groups. It may send two interns to Europe. For more information, please contact:

Wes George
Southeast Treaty Four Tribal Council
Box 686
Whitewood, Saskatchewan S0G 5C0
Tel.: (306) 696-3160
Fax: (306) 696-3146

News Release

May 14, 1998

No. 122

MARCHI ANNOUNCES TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS TO EDC BOARD

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the appointments of Joy F. Kane of Ottawa and Grace S. White of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, to the Board of Directors of Export Development Corporation (EDC).

"These two women bring special knowledge and experience to EDC," said Minister Marchi. "Their backgrounds in finance and international business are a welcome addition to the Board."

Ms. Kane is currently Assistant Deputy Minister, International Trade and Finance, in the federal Department of Finance. She has 20 years' experience as an economist and a senior public servant in the Government of Canada.

Ms. White, President and CEO of CanJam Trading Ltd., a Canadian-based international trading company, has been active in business in Atlantic Canada since 1978. In 1993, she was named Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year in the International Competitiveness Category.

EDC provides a full range of trade finance services, helping Canadian exporters and investors to do business in 200 countries, including higher-risk and emerging markets. Founded in 1944 as a Crown corporation, EDC operates as a commercial financial institution. It reports to Parliament through the Minister for International Trade.

These appointments are effective immediately.

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Biographical notes are attached.



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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman
Office of the Minister for International Trade
(613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Joy F. Kane was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister for the International Trade and Finance Branch of the federal Department of Finance on March 23, 1998.

Ms. Kane first joined the Department of Finance in 1978 as an economist with the Capital Markets Division, and has held a variety of positions in both the Fiscal Policy and Social Policy Divisions. She was appointed Assistant Director, Social Policy Division, Federal-Provincial Relations and Social Policy Branch in the Department of Finance in April 1989, advancing to Director in 1990. She also has experience in Health Canada, where she spent six years as Director, Social Policy (1983-89). Ms. Kane was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services, Department of Finance and Treasury Board Secretariat on September 18, 1995, before assuming her current position in March of this year.

Ms. Kane was born in Toronto and graduated from York University with an Honours Bachelor of Arts (Economics) in 1977. She received a Masters in Economics from the University of Western Ontario in 1978.

Grace S. White is the President and CEO of CanJam Trading Ltd, a home-based international trading company established in 1989 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. CanJam distributes frozen fish, poultry, beef and pork to customers all over the world including Jamaica, the United States, Asia, Europe and Canada. The company completed its fifth full year in business with sales of more than \$6.5 million.

Ms. White was named the Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year for 1993 in the International Competitiveness category. She is a former director of the Human Resources Development Association and the Halifax Board of Trade. She is currently Vice-Chair of the Nova Scotia Business Development Corporation, a member of the Nova Scotia Trade Council and she is on the Advisory Board of the Frank S. Sobey Faculty of Commerce at Saint Mary's University. She is also a Business Advisor for the SEA Program at Henson College and has recently been appointed to the Management Consortium for the Nova Scotia Environmental Industries and Technologies Program.

Ms. White was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and attended Saint Mary's University, Halifax, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1978. She also holds the designation of Chartered Financial Planner.

News Release

May 14, 1998

No. 123

AXWORTHY DEPLORES VIOLENCE IN INDONESIA, ENCOURAGES CANADIANS TO LEAVE JAVA AND SUMATRA, AND URGES PEACEFUL REFORMS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today advised Canadians to defer all travel to Indonesia. He also recommended that Canadians resident in Jakarta, elsewhere in Java and in Sumatra depart the country by the safest means, and as soon as possible. He has instructed the Canadian Embassy to remove all non-essential staff and dependants. The Embassy continues to stay in contact with the Canadian community, and remaining essential Embassy staff are available to assist Canadians who may encounter problems leaving the country.

Minister Axworthy also used the occasion to deplore the death of Trisakti University students and the escalating violence in Indonesia. He also called on the Indonesian Government to pursue peaceful reforms.

"I am deeply concerned about recent developments in Indonesia, and I urge Indonesian authorities to quickly launch full investigations to ensure prosecution of the parties responsible for the recent incidents, including the Trisakti shootings and disappearances of students and activists," said Minister Axworthy. "With the escalating violence, we think it safest for Canadians to leave the country."

The Indonesian Ambassador to Canada was called in by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to be advised of Minister Axworthy's grave concern about the situation in Indonesia and of his call for political reforms.

"We cannot tolerate the use of excessive force as a means to solve the current economic and social crisis in Indonesia," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. "I strongly encourage all parties involved to engage in an open and transparent dialogue to bring about peace and stability in Indonesia."



Following his recent visit to Indonesia, Minister Chan raised the issue of activists' disappearances in a letter to the Indonesian Justice Minister. On May 5, the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia met with the Indonesian Defence Minister to express Canada's concerns about the escalating violence and underlined the need for restraint by the security forces.

The travel advisory report can be accessed through the Web site of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Hilary Humphrey
Office of the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)
(613) 995-1852

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



VIII^e Sommet de la Francophonie - 1999

May 15, 1998

No. 124

SIGNING OF A FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE MONCTON SUMMIT

Canada's Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau, with New Brunswick's Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Thériault, and Sylvain Simard, Quebec's Minister for International Relations with Responsibility for la Francophonie, today signed in Moncton a memorandum of understanding on the terms and conditions for organizing the Eighth Francophone Summit scheduled for Moncton in September 1999.

The agreement, which sets out the financial and administrative responsibilities of the three signing governments, was initialled during a ceremony hosted by New Brunswick Premier Camille Thériault that inaugurated the joint Secretariat for the Summit's organization.

"We have just laid the cornerstone in a structure that will give confidence to la Francophonie in Canada and will give major impetus to Francophone co-operation internationally," said Mrs. Marleau. "I am convinced that the Moncton Summit will be one of the most productive and most worthwhile ever."

"The Moncton Summit provides New Brunswick and its Acadian community with a unique opportunity to present our rich culture to the entire world," said Premier Thériault. "My government will co-operate with our federal and Quebec partners to make this summit a successful event that we will proudly remember forever."

"We are very proud and very pleased to be working with our partners in New Brunswick and Canada to organize and fund the Moncton Summit," said Minister Simard. "Needless to say, Quebec will contribute as much as it can to the success of the event, not only in terms of its commitments to la Francophonie worldwide, but also by virtue of the historical ties between Quebec and the Acadians and the obligation of solidarity that Quebec feels toward them."

Secretariat

343 Archibald Street - 4th floor

Moncton (New Brunswick) Canada E1C 5K4

Telephone: (506) 382-1999 Fax: (506) 860-3030



The Secretariat for the Summit's organization will be led by Fernand Landry, assisted by six sectoral directors seconded from the federal and provincial public services and from the private sector.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

André Doren
Office of the Minister for International Co-operation and
Minister responsible for la Francophonie
Tel.: (819) 997-6919
Fax: (819) 953-2903

Patrick Lacroix
Office of the Premier of New Brunswick
Tel.: (506) 453-2144
Fax: (506) 453-7407

Daniel Amar
Quebec Ministry of International Relations
Tel.: (418) 649-2319
Fax: (418) 643-4804

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

May 15, 1998

No. 125

CHAN FIRST CANADIAN MINISTER TO VISIT MONGOLIA

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan announced today that he will visit Mongolia from May 18 to 22. Mr. Chan will be the first Canadian minister to make an official visit to Mongolia; the visit marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Mongolia. Mr. Chan will be accompanied by a business delegation representing a range of sectors including mining, agriculture, transportation, telecommunications and energy.

"Canada recognizes Mongolia's successful efforts as a member of the Asia-Pacific community to build an open economy with democratic institutions," said Mr. Chan. "This visit is an opportunity, on the 25th anniversary of Canada-Mongolia relations, to explore new areas of co-operation and cultivate closer economic relations between our countries. Increasingly, Canadian firms are recognizing that their expertise is uniquely suited to the growing commercial needs of this developing market."

Mr. Chan is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, as well as government leaders, including the Chairman of the State Great Hural (Parliament), Dr. Gonchigdorj, the Minister for Agriculture and Industry, and the Minister for Infrastructure Development. Mr. Chan is expected to discuss a range of bilateral issues with government leaders and hold meetings on mining and mineral resources, taxation issues and protection for foreign investment. Canada is currently Mongolia's fifth-largest international investor.

Mr. Chan will meet with the Chairman of the Mongol-Canadian Parliamentary Group, Mr. Enkhtuvshin, to discuss ways to promote co-operation between Canadian and Mongolian parliamentarians. In addition to activities to strengthen cultural and academic links, Mr. Chan will profile Canada's development assistance for Mongolia by visiting Canadian-funded projects in the region.

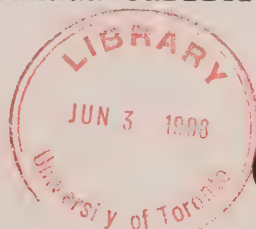
Mongolia opened its first mission in Canada earlier this year.

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Backgrounders are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Hilary Humphrey
Office of the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)
(613) 995-1852

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

VISIT TO MONGOLIA OF THE HONOURABLE RAYMOND CHAN SECRETARY OF STATE (ASIA-PACIFIC) MAY 18 TO 22, 1998

BUSINESS DELEGATION

Agriteam Canada, Calgary, Ontario

CPCS Transcom Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario

Dorey International, Montreal, Quebec

Dunn Analytical Laboratories Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Java Gold Corporation/Golden Tiger Corporation, Toronto, Ontario

MacLeod Dixon, Barristers and Solicitors, Toronto, Ontario

RACAL Canada Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia

Quincunx Gold Exploration Ltd., Waterdown, Ontario

CANADIAN COMPANIES BASED IN MONGOLIA

Cascadia Minerals

Can-Asia Drilling Services Ltd.

Nostrad Telecommunications

World Wide Minerals

Armada Gold Ltd.

Backgrounder

CANADA-MONGOLIA RELATIONS

November 30, 1998, will mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Mongolia. A series of cultural and educational events and exchanges and high-level visits have been planned by the Mongolian and Canadian governments to mark the occasion. The visit of Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan to Mongolia in May and the proposed visit of Minister of External Relations Amarjargal to Canada in September commemorate this special anniversary.

PROFILE

Canada first recognized Mongolia in 1943 and established diplomatic relations in November 1973. Canada's relations with Mongolia have broadened since Mongolia's move in 1990 toward democracy and a market-oriented economy. Canada values Mongolia's status as a newly democratic state whose foreign policy is based on integration with the Asia-Pacific region. A democratic coalition government was elected in the summer of 1996, while in April 1997 a new Prime Minister, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, assumed office following a cabinet shuffle. The ruling democratic coalition has committed itself to economic liberalization, including investment and regulatory revisions, which will facilitate Canadian trade and investment in Mongolia. Mongolia has proposed signing a Double Taxation Agreement and a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement with Canada on which discussions are ongoing.

With bilateral trade estimated at a modest \$1 million, Mongolia has not been a high economic priority for Canada. However, relations with Mongolia are expanding, led by the activities of Canadian businesses in Mongolia – primarily mining interests. Several Canadian companies have been active in the Mongolian mining sector for a number of years. However, with the liberalization of the Mongolian economy, Canadian agriculture, energy, transportation and telecommunications companies will find significant commercial opportunities in Mongolia. Canada is currently Mongolia's fifth-largest investor.

A Canada-Mongolia Business Association comprising Canadian and Mongolian firms was established in June 1997 to promote business development and enhanced bilateral trade.

ENHANCED BILATERAL RELATIONS

NEW CONSULATES

The Canadian Embassy in Beijing is responsible for Canadian interests in Mongolia, while the Mongolian Embassy in Washington is responsible for Mongolian interests in Canada.

During the visit of Chairman Gonchigdorj to Canada in March 1998, the first Mongolian Consulate General was officially opened in Toronto.

In December 1997, Canada appointed Christopher Johnstone as Honorary Consul to Mongolia. The Honorary Consulate in Ulaanbaatar was officially opened by the Canadian Ambassador to China, Howard Balloch, in February 1998.

HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

A series of bilateral visits and exchanges have broadened Canada-Mongolia relations in recent years. The first visit by a Canadian parliamentarian to Mongolia was made by the Speaker of the Senate, Gildas Molgat, in 1997 (March 31 to April 4). During his visit, Speaker Molgat extended an invitation to Chairman Gonchigdorj, who visited Canada one year later in March 1998.

There are also increasing numbers of Canadian tourists, teachers and development workers in Mongolia.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

In March 1997, Canada designated Mongolia as eligible for official development assistance. To date, projects worth close to \$184 000 have been supported, ranging from sustainable waste management, voter education to schooling for working children.

News Release

May 15, 1998

No. 126

KILGOUR TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CARIBBEAN LEADERS

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will visit Barbados, Grenada and Guyana from May 17 to 23 to discuss bilateral relations.

"Canada has a longstanding and warm relationship with Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) countries. This visit will provide the opportunity for constructive dialogue on issues of mutual concern and on areas where we can strengthen our bilateral co-operation," said Kilgour. "To promote global prosperity, we must work together in partnership with the CARICOM region to face the challenges of economic integration under the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)."

While in Barbados from May 18 to 19, Kilgour will meet with government leaders, including Prime Minister Owen Arthur, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs and Attorney General, and the Minister of International Trade and Business. He will meet with representatives from the CARICOM Trade Secretariat and the Caribbean Development Bank, as well as with the Brigadier-General of the Barbados Defence Force.

In Grenada, on May 20, he will meet Prime Minister Keith Mitchell and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In Guyana, from May 21 to 23, he will meet President Janet Jagan, the Finance Minister, and the CARICOM Deputy Secretary-General.

During these meetings, Kilgour will discuss regional security, narcotics smuggling and money laundering, ratification of the landmines treaty, Canada's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council, and the concerns of smaller economies in the FTAA process.

CARICOM was established in 1973 to promote greater unity among countries of the Caribbean. One of the organization's main objectives is the economic integration of its 14 members into a single market and economy by 2000. CARICOM also provides services



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to assist co-operation in areas such as transportation, environment, health, education, culture, communications and industrial relations.

Kilgour's visit follows several events in Canada-CARICOM relations. Prime Minister Chrétien last month co-hosted the Fifth Canada-CARICOM Heads of Government Summit in the Bahamas. In March, International Trade Minister Marchi met with CARICOM trade ministers in Costa Rica.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Sara Mohsin
Office of the Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa)
(613) 992-9404

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

May 19, 1998

No. 127

CANADA CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMON TRUST FUND FOR SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Sergio Marchi, Minister for International Trade, and Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie, announced today that Canada will contribute \$350 000 to a new multilateral trust fund for trade-related technical assistance to African countries. The announcement was made simultaneously today in Geneva by Minister Marchi, who is attending the Second World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, and in Ottawa by Minister Marleau.

The contribution to the Common Trust Fund will be used for programs in Burkina Faso and Tanzania, two of the least developed countries included in the fund.

"We must ensure that Africa reaps the benefits of globalization," Mme. Marleau said today. "The trade environment has changed so radically over the years that it requires skills unheard of 20 years ago. The creation of this trust fund will help ensure that the least developed countries are better positioned to address the issue of poverty," she said.

The contribution will be made through the Canadian International Development Agency. The funds will be used to help define training requirements and needs for policy reform, adapt legislation, and improve access to information related to trade and investment. Today's announcement follows up on the decisions made at last October's international meeting on technical assistance in trade-related areas.

"Canada's contribution reflects our commitment to ensuring that all developing countries are able to reap the benefits of trade liberalization," Mr. Marchi said. "This support will enable African countries to benefit from trade and investment opportunities. It will also help them integrate more fully into the multilateral trading system," he said.



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The Common Trust Fund will support co-ordination between the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the International Trade Centre, as well as donor governments and benefiting partner countries. It was established in early 1998 to provide trade-related technical assistance that will help developing countries participate effectively in the multilateral trading system and improve their export competitiveness.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the government's existing financial framework.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman
Office of the Minister for International Trade
(613) 992-7332

André Doren
Office of the Minister for International Co-operation and
Minister responsible for la Francophonie
(819) 997-6919

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

Media Relations Office
Canadian International Development Agency
(819) 953-6534

This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Further WTO background materials are available at:
<http://www.wto.org>

News Release

May 20, 1998

No. 128

MARCHI WELCOMES NEW DEALS BETWEEN CANADIAN AND ITALIAN BUSINESSES

Minister for International Trade Sergio Marchi today welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Aerospace Industries Association of Canada and the Association of Italian Aerospace and Defence Industries, along with a number of other Canadian business deals with Italy. Minister Marchi, accompanied by Alfonso Gagliano, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, and 12 parliamentarians, is leading a Canadian business development mission comprised of 73 companies.

"This is a great opportunity to reaffirm the importance we attach to Canada-Italy relations," said Mr. Marchi. "And the time is ripe for Canadian business to take advantage of these strong cultural ties."

The delegation has attended a number of business seminars and working groups with their Italian counterparts and met up with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien during his official visit to Italy this week. Minister Marchi and the Information Communications Technologies group of Canadian participants also met with the Italian Minister of Communications, Antonio Maccanico, on May 19.

In addition to the MOU between Canadian and Italian aerospace associations, a number of business agreements were announced during the business sessions today. The aerospace MOU will provide a general framework for the joint promotion of Canada-Italy aerospace industry co-operation. The five other business agreements include: a contract between GE Canada and EH Industries Ltd. of Italy; the purchase of Italian machinery by Pasta D'Aurum of Saskatchewan to build a pasta plant in Swift Current; a cross-marketing agreement between Cipher New Media of Toronto, Ontario, and M3 Milano Multimediale; a joint venture between Advanced Cultural Technologies Inc. of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Intelfin S.p.A.; and an agreement between Northern Telecom and Finmeccanica to jointly develop and manufacture wireless communications technology in the south of Italy; and the



opening of five offices by Italian companies to be represented by CO.DE.CI Corporation of Montreal, Quebec.

"These deals are a stepping stone for a new commercial relationship between Canada and Italy," Mr. Marchi said. "Ours is a relationship based on cultural roots, but enhanced by our complementary needs and international trade focus."

The Canadian business development mission will participate in a number of business activities in Milan, May 21 to 23.

Minister Marchi's participation in this mission follows his bilateral visit to Northern Italy from May 15 to 18, where he met with local officials and business leaders and addressed an automotive conference in Turin. On May 18 and 19, Mr. Marchi participated in the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting and celebration of the 50th anniversary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva.

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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(613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

CANADA-ITALY BUSINESS AGREEMENTS

GE Canada Inc.

GE Aircraft Engines (GEAE) Canada signed a \$60 million contract with European Helicopter (EH) Industries to supply its T700 engine, jointly manufactured with Fiat Avio, as part of the Comorant helicopter project.

Pasta D'Aurum

Pasta D'Aurum of Swift Current, Saskatchewan has purchased \$40 million worth of machinery from Braibanti Golfetto S.p.A. for the creation of its pasta plant. When finished, the plant is expected to create more than 200 new jobs and will be the largest pasta producing plant in North America.

Cipher New Media

Cipher New Media of Toronto, Ontario has signed a cross-marketing agreement with M3 Milano Multimediale. This agreement, valued at \$60,000 will allow M3 Milano Multimediale to market and distribute Cipher New Media's electronic commerce products in Italy. Cipher New Media will market and distribute M3 Milano Multimediale's products in North America.

Advanced Cultural Technologies

Advanced Cultural Technologies of Vancouver, British Columbia, has signed a joint venture agreement worth \$500,000 with Intelfin S.p.A. for the adaptation and deployment of the ACT Cinemage multimedia client/server system and the NetXchequer subscription and royalty revenue management system.

Northern Telecom (Nortel)

Northern Telecom has signed an agreement with Finmeccanica whereby Nortel and Ansaldo Signal (a Finmeccanica subsidiary) will jointly develop and manufacture GSMR wireless railway communications and signalling systems; and Nortel and Alenia Aerospazio (a Finmeccanica subsidiary) will jointly develop and manufacture interactive multimedia satellite services and terminals for the Euroskyway project. These initiatives, brought about by Nortel's participation with TELON in the competition for Italy's third mobile licence, will bring jobs, significant

investment and US\$6 billion in export potential to the South of Italy.

CO.DE.CI Consulting Group

The CO.DE.CI Corporation of Montreal, Quebec, announced the permanent establishment in Canada of five Italian companies. The companies are: OMG - Officine Meccaniche Galileo; Modenplast-Brabor; Euroelettra; A.C.C. - FEMA Costruzioni Meccaniche; and Gamma Meccanica. CO.DE.CI is currently negotiating co-production and co-marketing partnerships with Canadian companies located in the Montreal area, on behalf of the five companies.

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News Release

May 22, 1998

No. 129

AXWORTHY APPOINTS AMBASSADOR FOR MINE ACTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Jill E. Sinclair as Ambassador for Mine Action. Ms. Sinclair will be supported by the newly created Mine Action Team within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

"The appointment of an Ambassador for Mine Action and the creation of the Mine Action Team are positive steps in meeting our commitment to the Agenda for Mine Action," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada is maintaining the momentum of Ottawa Process II and we are continually renewing our efforts in this important humanitarian initiative."

The post of Ambassador for Mine Action has been created to ensure that the Ottawa Convention is effectively implemented and that it makes a real difference in the lives of mine-affected communities worldwide. The Mine Action Team will be responsible for entry into force of the Convention, universalization, and full implementation of its provisions.

Ambassador Sinclair will also be reaching out to engage the support and interest of the Canadian public, and ensuring that Canada is able to continue to provide international leadership on the landmines issue.

Ambassador Sinclair will be a key advisor to Minister Axworthy in working toward a co-ordinated Canadian mine action strategy. Minister Axworthy and his colleagues from the Canadian International Development Agency, National Defence and Industry Canada are jointly managing the \$100 million Landmine Treaty Implementation Fund, which was established at the time of the signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (known as the Ottawa Convention), December 2 to 4, 1997, in Ottawa.

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A biographical note on Jill E. Sinclair is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Biographical Note

As Director of the Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Jill E. Sinclair played a crucial role in the Ottawa Process from its inception through the October 1996 Ottawa meeting, where Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy challenged the world to conclude, within a year, a comprehensive, global ban on anti-personnel mines, to the signature of the Convention in December 1997. She was the Chair of the recent "Ottawa Process II - Mine Action Forum," which took place in Ottawa in March 1998. It brought together participants from mine-affected and donor countries, the community of Canadian and international non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and regional organizations. The goal of the Forum was to establish a co-ordinated global approach to ensure the effective and early implementation of the Convention and an integrated approach to global efforts to clear mines and assist victims.

Ms. Sinclair joined the Department of External Affairs in 1981 and has had diplomatic postings in Prague and Havana, as well as a secondment to the Department of Communications as Special Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Culture and Broadcasting. She has worked extensively on issues of international peace and security as Departmental Assistant to Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, as Deputy Director responsible for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Organization of American States Hemispheric Security Committee and, since 1994, as Director of the Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, with responsibilities including nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional arms control and disarmament, missile proliferation and regional confidence and security-building mechanisms and dialogue within the Middle East Peace Process. She is a graduate of York University (Glendon College), Toronto, and undertook postgraduate work at Dalhousie University, Halifax.

News Release

May 22, 1998

No. 130

AXWORTHY WELCOMES U.S. DECISION TO SIGN LANDMINE TREATY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the announcement that the United States will sign the Ottawa anti-personnel mine ban treaty by the year 2006 if the United States can find alternatives to its anti-personnel mines.

"The U.S. decision sends a clear signal to the hold-out states that the issue is not if, but when, countries should sign," said Mr. Axworthy. "The United States clearly wants to be part of the solution. However, I hope and believe that the U.S. can sign sooner. Waiting for an alternative does not justify the use of a weapon that most of the world has declared illegal. This is not a military issue – it is a humanitarian issue."

Canada, along with a coalition of other governments, international non-governmental organizations, and individuals, is committed to continuing its work towards speedy and effective implementation of the Ottawa Treaty together with practical action to eliminate landmines and assist mine victims.

Canada has appointed an Ambassador for Mine Action, Jill Sinclair, together with a Mine Action Team to ensure that Canada continues its international leadership on the landmines issue. To date, 126 countries have signed the Ottawa Treaty and 13 countries have ratified. In order for the Ottawa Treaty to enter into force, 40 countries must ratify. Canada hopes that the Treaty will enter into force by the end of the summer.

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News Release

May 25, 1998

No. 131

AXWORTHY APPLAUDS DECISION TO RELEASE JAILED INDONESIAN ACTIVISTS PAKPAHAN AND PAMUNGKAS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed today the new Indonesian government's decision to free two political prisoners, independent union leader Muchtar Pakpahan as well as former Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives Sri Bintang Pamungkas.

Mr. Axworthy also called for the release of all other political prisoners, including Xanana Gusmao, jailed East Timorese leader, and encouraged the new Indonesian government to work for a peaceful political settlement in East Timor.

The announcement of Mr. Pakpahan's and Mr. Pamungkas's release was made by Justice Minister Muladi earlier today at Cipinang prison in the presence of the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia, Gary J. Smith, and his Dutch counterpart. Mr. Pakpahan, a labour leader on trial for subversion, and Mr. Pamungkas, leader of the unrecognized United Democratic Party of Indonesia who was charged with subversion, were allowed to speak to supporters from on top of the prison walls after the announcement.

"This action is a positive step for the new Indonesian government toward tolerance of political opposition," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada is committed to assisting Indonesia in the development of democratic and economic reforms."

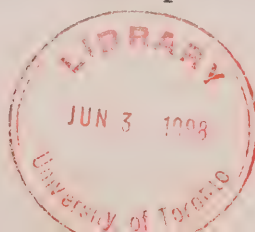
Mr. Axworthy asked for Mr. Pakpahan's release during meetings last July with members of the previous Indonesian government of President Soeharto. Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan called for Mr. Pakpahan's freedom last month during a meeting with Justice Minister Muladi while he was in Jakarta to discuss Indonesia's humanitarian and economic needs.

"We are pleased that President Habibie has agreed to give Mr. Pakpahan and Mr. Pamungkas their freedom, and I urge the Indonesian government to release other political prisoners," said Mr. Chan.



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Mr. Pakpahan has been incarcerated since late 1996, but has been in hospital since early 1997 due to a lung illness. He underwent medical tests in December 1997 after the Indonesian government agreed to accept Canadian medical assistance in the form of a medical team and LIFE technology provided by Xillix Technologies Corp. of Richmond, British Columbia.

In May 1996, Mr. Pamungkas was sentenced to two years in jail on charges of slandering President Soeharto. He was out of prison pending appeal of the court decision when in early 1997, he was jailed and charged with subversion for calling for a boycott of the May 1997 parliamentary elections.

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News Release

May 26, 1998

No. 132

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND NATO MEETINGS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will attend the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ministerial Meetings in Luxembourg on May 28 and 29, 1998.

The North Atlantic Council, the decision-making body of NATO, will discuss the renewal of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia. Mr. Axworthy will also participate in the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council marking the first anniversary of the signing of the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Security and Co-operation. Meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will also mark a year of progress in building these relationships.

"The continuation of SFOR in Bosnia and NATO's role in maintaining stability in the Balkans as a whole will be at the centre of our concern, particularly in light of developments in Kosovo." Mr. Axworthy said. "We will need to ensure that NATO, in co-operation with its partners, makes a full contribution to building security in Europe in the coming years."

NATO's process of adaptation and enlargement is well under way. The partnership arrangements with Russia, Ukraine and other European countries are making significant contributions to security and co-operation in the Euro-Atlantic region. NATO is now examining its strategic concept and looking beyond its 50th anniversary next year.

Canada's main objectives at the Luxembourg meetings are to ensure that NATO continues to build on the achievements since the Madrid Summit, and to remain a strong organization with a clear vision of its role and confident in its ability to contribute to European and international security.

While in Luxembourg, Mr. Axworthy will also take the opportunity to raise with his counterparts Canada's bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

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News Release

May 26, 1998

No. 133

OECD SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT CANADA

The Government of Canada announced today that Donald Johnston, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), will visit Ottawa, May 27 to 28, 1998, for discussions with federal ministers and senior officials.

While in Ottawa, Mr. Johnston will have consultations with International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi, Finance Minister Paul Martin, Industry Minister John Manley, Human Resources Development Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew, Environment Minister Christine Stewart and Bank of Canada Governor Gordon Thiessen. Mr. Johnston will exchange views with them on a number of issues including recent developments in the Canadian economy, the OECD's economic, social and trade work program, sustainable development, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the Ottawa OECD Electronic Commerce Ministerial Meeting and OECD reform.

The OECD Secretary-General visits member countries annually to discuss the state of their economies. The annual visits to Canada also provide an excellent opportunity to raise Canadian priorities in the OECD work program with the Secretary-General. This will be Mr. Johnston's second official visit to Canada.

The OECD is a key international economic organization whose work contributes to Canada's economic, trade, and social policy development, and promotes co-operation among the major industrialized countries. Mr. Johnston, the first non-European to be named OECD Secretary-General, was appointed in 1996. Since taking office, he has launched a broad process of organizational and administrative reforms to make the OECD more focussed, relevant, and efficient for the 21st century.

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News Release

May 27, 1998

No. 134

AXWORTHY CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY EIGHT YEARS AFTER SUSPENDED ELECTION PROCESS IN BURMA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed today, on the eighth anniversary of the last democratic elections in Burma, Canada's profound disappointment with the Burmese military regime's continuing refusal to restore democracy.

"Eight years ago, the Burmese people exercised their democratic right to choose their own government," Mr. Axworthy said. "The military dictatorship refused to honour the election results. Canada deeply regrets that the regime continues to deny Burma's citizens their democratic freedoms."

Burma's national elections on May 27, 1990, resulted in victory for the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by its Secretary-General Aung San Suu Kyi, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize while under house arrest in 1991. The party won 392 seats, representing more than 80 percent of the total number.

The Canadian government continues to urge the Burmese military regime to initiate a meaningful dialogue with Burma's pro-democracy leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, as an important step toward the restoration of democracy.

"The future well-being of the people of Burma and its economic development demand that the military regime end its repression and restore political freedom to the people of Burma," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

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May 28, 1998

No. 135

CORRECTED VERSION

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO REFER THE ISSUE OF CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS TO THE WTO

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi, Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale, and Secretary of State responsible for Economic Development Canada Martin Cauchon announced today the Canadian government's decision to initiate consultations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the settlement of the dispute with France on the issue of chrysotile asbestos.

This decision was taken after a series of discussions with the Canadian government's partners in this issue and was made public this morning at the end of a meeting with the Ministers and a group of stakeholders from Thetford Mines, Asbestos and Black Lake.

"I have instructed our mission in Geneva to formally request consultations, the first step in the WTO dispute settlement process," said Mr. Marchi. "I am hopeful that this process will enable Canada and France to pursue a dialogue and to find a mutually satisfactory resolution to this issue."

"The Government's objective is to maintain market access for chrysotile asbestos products, which are safe when used properly, according to the safe-use principle of the Government's Minerals and Metals Policy," said Mr. Goodale.

"Natural resources are playing a major role in Canadian economic growth and asbestos has always generated considerable economic activity in the producing regions," said Mr. Cauchon. "Canada wants to counter the impact of the French measures on the development of this industry and on the survival of the related jobs."

The Ministers have as well expressed their concern over the negative impact on exports of chrysotile fibre resulting from measures recently adopted by Belgium and the European Commission. Ministers Marchi, Goodale and Cauchon added that Canada is also evaluating the possibility of recourse to the WTO regarding these two cases.



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Since January 1, 1997, France has prohibited the manufacture, import and sale of asbestos and products containing asbestos, with rare exception.

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Backgrounders are attached.

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Backgrounder

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ASBESTOS ISSUE

In July 1996, the French government announced its intention to ban the importation and manufacture of asbestos as of January 1, 1997, based on a report by the Institut national sur la santé et la recherche médicale (INSERM).

Health Canada, via the Royal Society of Canada, began a scientific independent review of the INSERM report, which was completed in early December 1996.

On November 15, 1996, International Trade Minister Art Eggleton and Treasury Board President Marcel Massé met in Thetford Mines with community leaders and asbestos industry stakeholders.

On November 18, 1996, French Prime Minister Juppé responded to Prime Minister Chrétien's letter on exemptions to the ban.

On December 11, 1996, during a bilateral meeting in Singapore, International Trade Minister Eggleton discussed the asbestos ban at the European Union level with Sir Leon Brittan.

On December 12, 1996, Prime Minister Chrétien sent a follow-up letter to French Prime Minister Alain Juppé.

On January 1, 1997, the French ban was imposed.

From January 9 to 13, 1997, International Trade Minister Eggleton raised his concerns about Korean market access asbestos issues with his counterpart during the Team Canada trip.

On January 15, 1997, the Royal Society of Canada released its study on the French INSERM report. The report confirmed that France had overestimated the real threat of asbestos to the French population.

On January 22 and 23, 1997, Prime Minister Chrétien again raised the asbestos issue with his French counterpart, Alain Juppé.

On February 14, 1997, Canadian officials raised the French ban issue at a meeting of the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The European Union undertook to report back to the Committee justifying the ban.

On March 3, 1997, Natural Resources Minister McLellan and Treasury Board President Massé held a press conference in Thetford Mines after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the federal government and the two Canadian asbestos producers on the responsible use of asbestos.

March 15-20, 1997, three French journalists visited the Canadian asbestos industry on a fact-finding tour at the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), in co-operation with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

In June 1997, Canada again raised the French ban on asbestos issue in the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee.

On June 18, 1997, the U.K. Environment Minister Angela Eagle announced her government's intention to ban the use and importation of chrysotile asbestos products.

On June 20, 1997, Prime Minister Chrétien met with U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair at the Denver Summit to raise Canadian concerns about the United Kingdom's intentions to move towards banning the use of chrysotile asbestos.

In July 1997, International Trade Minister Marchi wrote to domestic stakeholders to initiate consultations on WTO action on asbestos against France.

On September 11, 1997, consultations on WTO action were held with stakeholders.

September 14-16, 1997, NRCan sponsored a scientific workshop in Montreal on the health risks associated with the use of chrysotile and present-day chrysotile-based products.

September 16-19, 1997, NRCan organized and co-sponsored an International Conference in Montreal on the safe and responsible use of chrysotile fibres. About 300 delegates from 45 countries were present at this event.

On September 17, 1997, the Canadian government announced it would support a quarter million dollar training program to help implement the responsible-use policy for chrysotile asbestos in developing countries.

On September 30, 1997, a Canadian delegation of asbestos experts met with officials from the U.K. Health and Safety Executive to exchange scientific information about the health risks associated with the use of chrysotile asbestos and to outline concerns regarding the use of substitutes.

In late September 1997, the asbestos issue was raised by the French government with the Premier of Quebec in Paris.

In October 1997, discussions were held between French and Canadian officials on possible steps to alleviate Canadian concerns over asbestos, including the initiation of the "Kouchner process."

On October 22, 1997, Prime Minister Chrétien met U.K. Prime Minister Blair at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London, and suggested that further scientific discussions be held between the U.K. and Canada.

On November 26, 1997, the Deputy Minister for International Trade met with stakeholders in Montreal to discuss WTO action on asbestos.

December 18, 1997, a joint Canada/Quebec meeting was organized with government and industry representatives from six chrysotile-producing countries (Brazil, Canada, Russia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) to discuss joint actions in defense of chrysotile asbestos.

On January 21, 1998, Prime Minister Chrétien wrote to Prime Minister Blair to assure him of Canada's intention to participate in the consultation process.

In February 1998, the United Kingdom announced it would be pursuing consultations on workers' safety with respect to chrysotile as opposed to announcing its intentions to ban the use of asbestos.

In January/February 1998, there were further consultations with stakeholders on WTO asbestos action.

In February 1998, the European Union issued a directive which, for all intents and purposes, bans asbestos in brakes.

On February 27, 1998, a diplomatic note was sent to Belgian authorities asking for justification of the February 3, 1998, decision to ban asbestos. This was followed by a meeting between Ambassador Jean-Paul Hubert and the Belgian Minister of State to raise concerns about the Belgian ban decision.

In March 1998, Canada along with other chrysotile-producing countries signed an Aide-Memoire on the responsible use of asbestos. This Aide-Memoire was submitted by the participating Ambassadors to the European Union.

In March, April and May 1998, the DFAIT with the co-operation of NRCan organized visits of the Canadian asbestos industry by Belgian, U.K. and Moroccan journalists. The purpose of these visits was to brief foreign journalists on the government's position on the safe use of chrysotile asbestos and to demonstrate the modern chrysotile asbestos industry.

In April 1998, International Trade Minister Marchi met with his French counterpart, Minister Dondoux, and raised the asbestos issue.

On April 21, 1998, Deputy Minister for International Trade, Rob Wright, met with U.K. Environment Minister Angela Eagle to discuss the asbestos file.

On April 22, 1998, the Council of Europe adopted a report that called for an European ban of asbestos.

In April 1998, French Professor Claude Got visited Canada followed by French Secretary of State Bernard Kouchner.

In May 1998, Canadian concerns over asbestos were raised on various occasions at the political level in Europe.

On May 14, 1998, Prime Minister Chrétien raised the issue of asbestos with his counterparts during the Canada/European Union Summit.

On May 28, 1998, International Trade Minister Marchi instructed the Canadian mission in Geneva to formally request consultations, under the dispute settlement procedures of the WTO, on the measures taken by France to ban chrysotile asbestos.

Backgrounder

FLOW CHART OF WTO TRADE DISPUTE

The purpose of this indicative flow chart is twofold. First, to highlight the main steps in the evolution of a trade dispute based on standard proceedings under the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding and, secondly, to provide a synoptical view of DSU time frames.

Request for Consultations

If responding party does not reply within 10 days, or if it does not enter into consultations within 30 days, or at period mutually agreed, the complaining party can request the establishment of a panel (other WTO Members with substantial trade interest have 10 days to join the consultations)

Consultations
60 days

Complaining State may request panel

The complaining State may request a panel at any time after 60 days from the date the request is received by the other State, provided consultations have not resolved the issue

Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) establishes panel
(usually within 10-30 days)

Panel's terms of reference
Composition of the panel
(within 20 days of the establishment of the panel)

Panel Examination

As a general rule, should not exceed 6 months from composition of the panel
(includes circulation of interim report within 13 to 22 weeks)

Final panel report circulated to Members and DSB
(report circulated to disputing parties a few weeks in advance)

DSB adopts panel report
(not before 20 days of circulation)

Appeal to Appellate Body
(within 60 days of panel report)

Appellate review
(60 or 90 days)

DSB adopts Appellate report
(within 30 days of report)

DSB monitors implementation of adopted panel/Appellate Body recommendations
within 30 days of adoption the responding party must inform the DSB of its intentions regarding the implementation of the recommendations

News Release

May 28, 1998

No. 136

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS AND ANNOUNCES SANCTIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy attending NATO meetings in Luxembourg today condemned the nuclear weapons tests carried out by Pakistan and announced the imposition of sanctions against the country.

"Canada condemns this action by Pakistan. These tests, following India's nuclear tests, have grave implications for world security, regional stability and the non-proliferation regime," said Mr. Axworthy. "We continue to urge Pakistan and India to renounce their nuclear weapons programs and to sign both the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."

Mr. Axworthy announced a series of measures to be taken by Canada in reaction to Pakistan's nuclear tests. These are consistent with those imposed on India following its recent nuclear tests:

- Canada's High Commissioner to Pakistan has been recalled as a sign of protest;
- Canada is discontinuing non-humanitarian development assistance to Pakistan;
- Canada will seek deferment of planned International Financial Institution-funded projects in Pakistan;
- Military exports to Pakistan have been banned; and
- The planned visit to Canada by Pakistan's Auditor General has been deferred.

"During my meeting earlier today with the Pakistani High Commissioner, I conveyed Canada's deep regret that Pakistan felt compelled to proceed with nuclear testing. I expressed condemnation for an action that heightens the risk of an arms race and nuclear proliferation, and informed him of the measures to be imposed on Pakistan," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.



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Canada's earlier offer to provide Pakistan with development assistance funds withdrawn from India was contingent on Pakistan not conducting nuclear testing. This offer has therefore been rescinded and further measures will be considered.

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News Release

May 28, 1998

No. 137

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN SFOR IN BOSNIA AFTER JUNE 1998

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and National Defence Minister Art Eggleton announced today that Canada will renew its participation in the new North Atlantic Treaty Organization Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia after the current mandate expires June 20, 1998.

The mission for the renewed SFOR was the subject of a United Nations Security Council decision and was endorsed today at the Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Luxembourg. SFOR will be an open-ended mission. This approach reflects the international community's readiness to persevere in Bosnia until a self-sustaining peace is achieved. The North Atlantic Council has proposed to review SFOR at six-month intervals.

"As the Prime Minister noted during his recent trip to Bosnia, there has been significant progress, but there remains much to be done," said Minister Axworthy. "The continued presence of SFOR will provide the overall security and stability necessary to various civilian projects aimed at rebuilding a functioning society and government. Canada will continue to work to empower civil society organizations and to promote basic human rights including freedom of movement and property rights."

In November 1997, upon their return from a visit to Bosnia, a delegation of members from the Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and National Defence and Veterans Affairs recommended that Canada continue to serve in SFOR in Bosnia. At the Committees' joint request, Canada's contribution was debated in the House on April 28, 1998.

"Over the past seven years, Canadian soldiers have contributed significantly to the multinational effort to establish peace in the former Yugoslavia," said Minister Eggleton. "I am confident that they will continue to carry out their duties in the new SFOR with their usual professionalism, energy and dedication."



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SFOR's primary mandate has been to maintain a secure and stable environment in Bosnia in order to allow implementation of civilian aspects of the Dayton Accords. Much has already been achieved as a result of SFOR's presence: peace has been restored and the electoral process has been restarted.

The mission of the Canadian contingent in SFOR in Bosnia will be to monitor and ensure compliance with the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement. The Canadian force will also be responsible for providing broad support to the international agencies responsible for the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Canada deploys more than 1200 Canadian Armed Forces personnel in Bosnia.

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News Release

May 29, 1998

No. 138

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND 28th OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN CARACAS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will attend the first day of the 28th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Caracas, Venezuela, to be held June 1 to 3, 1998.

"I believe that Canada's commitment and leadership in many crucial areas such as good governance, rule of law, human rights, and security have helped improve the functioning of the OAS," said Minister Axworthy. "The OAS has become an effective forum for members to pursue global priorities and offers Canada an opportunity to strengthen ties with our neighbours in the hemisphere."

Canada's objectives for this year's OAS meeting are to:

- Underscore and advance key hemispheric security issues including ratification of the Ottawa Treaty to Ban Landmines.
- Highlight Canadian involvement in anti-drug activities in the region.
- Promote civil society participation in the OAS.
- Encourage reform of the OAS in keeping with mandates and priorities expressed at the Santiago Summit.

While in Caracas, Mr. Axworthy will co-chair a Foreign Affairs Ministers Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) meeting, a follow-up to the Santiago Summit held last April in Chile. He will also pursue discussions on the new dialogue group, which hemispheric leaders have asked Canada to launch, and whose purpose is to address narcotics trafficking in the Americas.



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The General Assembly of the OAS is an annual meeting of Foreign Ministers from 34 member states of Latin America and the Caribbean. Canada will host the OAS General Assembly in 2000, which will mark Canada's 10th year of membership.

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News Release

May 29, 1998

No. 139

MINISTERS WELCOME WTO ARBITRATOR'S REPORT ON EU BEEF IMPORT BAN

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief welcomed today's decision by a World Trade Organization (WTO) arbitrator giving the European Union (EU) until May 1999 to have its measures on Canadian beef imports conform to WTO rules.

In February 1998, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body adopted the report of the Appellate Body confirming that the EU's ban on imports of Canadian beef produced with growth-promoting hormones violated its WTO obligations.

The EU requested four years to implement the report, a proposal rejected by Canada. The matter was therefore referred to arbitration. The arbitrator concluded that there were no special circumstances to warrant exceeding the WTO guidelines of 15 months past the date of adoption of the report.

"We are pleased with the arbitrator's decision. Prompt compliance with the WTO ruling is essential to ensure the effectiveness of the dispute settlement process," said Mr. Marchi. "The arbitrator's ruling is consistent with past WTO practice."

"The Government of Canada has worked closely with cattle producers to remove this non-tariff barrier and restore access to European markets," said Mr. Vanclief. "I will raise the issue of reopening the EU market for Canadian beef with EU Agriculture Commissioner Fischler during his visit to Canada next week."

In 1989, the EU imposed a ban on imports of Canadian beef produced with growth-promoting hormones. Canada requested a WTO dispute settlement panel in 1996 after direct consultations with the EU failed to resolve the dispute.

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News Release

May 30, 1998

No. 140

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS NEW ROUND OF PAKISTANI NUCLEAR TESTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy condemned the latest series of nuclear tests announced today by Pakistan.

"The Pakistani Government's decision to carry out another series of nuclear tests is a highly irresponsible act," said Mr. Axworthy.

"It further increases tension in the region, and threatens international security and the nuclear non-proliferation regime."

Mr. Axworthy was deeply disappointed by Pakistan's latest action, carried out despite the immediate condemnation by the international community following its first round of tests on May 28, and the earlier tests by India.

"Now is the time for both Pakistan and India to recognize the imminent danger of their actions, and to renounce their nuclear weapons programs," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

Mr. Axworthy appealed to both countries to sign to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and urged them to renew regional dialogue and work toward a peaceful resolution of differences.



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Mr. Axworthy welcomed British Foreign Minister Robin Cook's proposal to convene a meeting of G-8 Foreign Ministers on June 12, 1998 in London, to discuss this issue, and has indicated that he plans to attend.

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News Release

June 2, 1998

No. 141

CANADIAN/AMERICAN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS CELEBRATED IN WASHINGTON

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today congratulated the winners of the 1998 Award for Canadian-American Business Achievement, an annual award for outstanding cross-border business alliances.

The award, presented today by Ambassador Raymond Chrétien in Washington, celebrates Canadian and American firms whose partnerships have together achieved greater international business growth, innovation and community commitment than they could have sustained alone.

"The alliances demonstrate the remarkable power of trade liberalization and open markets between Canada and the United States," said Mr. Marchi. "Working together, these companies have brought millions of dollars of new revenue into both countries, created new jobs on both sides of the border, developed new products and enriched the quality of work life through commitment to training, co-operative business development and public education."

Winners of the 1998 Award for Canadian-American Business Achievement are RADARSAT International of Richmond, British Columbia, and Earth Satellite Corporation of Rockville, Maryland, for pioneering a remote sensing technology, which has reduced undersea oil exploration costs dramatically.

Also honoured with a Citation were Wood Lake Books Incorporated of Kelowna, British Columbia, and Logos Productions of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, for a combined ecumenical publishing arrangement, which has increased collective profits substantially and created 17 new jobs for the two small businesses.

The Awards were created in 1994 by the Canadian-American Business Council and the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. This year's Award was made possible by Canadian sponsors Bank of Montreal, the law firm of McMillan Binch, Canadian Business Media, Air



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Canada, and the Washington offices of Boyden Global Executive Search, the law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky, and Optimum Public Relations.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

AWARD FOR CANADIAN-AMERICAN BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT GOES TO RADARSAT INTERNATIONAL (RSI) AND EARTH SATELLITE CORPORATION (EARTHSAT)

RADARSAT International (RSI) is a world leader in providing information solutions from space to professionals involved in environmental monitoring and natural resources management applications. In addition to having the exclusive license to distribute Canada's RADARSAT satellite imagery worldwide, RSI distributes imagery from the European ERS satellite in North America and from the French SPOT, the American LANDSAT and the Japanese JERS-1 satellites in Canada. RSI, a private corporation with a staff of 86 was established in 1989. RSI has its headquarters in Richmond, British Columbia, with offices in Ottawa, Ontario; Gatineau, Quebec; and Farnborough, United Kingdom.

For more information, contact:

Cory Aspden, RADARSAT International (604) 231-4916 or
visit www.rsi.ca

Earth Satellite Corporation (EarthSat), established in 1969, is an international consulting and professional services firm specializing in the application and development of remote sensing and geographic information technologies (GIS) for the exploration, development, monitoring and management of the Earth's resources. Based in Rockville, Maryland, EarthSat is a world leader in the utilization of remote sensing data from aircraft and satellites, and is the largest value-added producer of satellite remotely sensed images. EarthSat solves information problems in oil and mineral exploration, worldwide crop monitoring and landcover change mapping.

For more information, contact:

Roger Mitchell, Earth Satellite Corporation (301) 231-0660 or
visit www.earthsat.com

CITATION FOR CANADIAN-AMERICAN BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDED TO WOOD LAKE BOOKS INCORPORATED AND LOGOS PRODUCTIONS INCORPORATED

Wood Lake Books Incorporated of Kelowna, British Columbia, and **Logos Productions Incorporated** of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, produce innovative products that appeal to ecumenical, multi-cultural customers. While the companies remain two separate entities, the partnership has been their major source of growth, and has proven to be profitable over time. Last year, the alliance contributed 30 percent of Wood Lake Books' 2.6 million

revenues; the alliance increased employment by six people, for a total of 29 employees. Logos credits the alliance with bringing in half their 1997 revenue of \$5 million and creating 11 jobs for a new total of 30 employees.

For more information, contact:

Wood Lake Books Inc. 1-800-663-2775 or (205) 766-2778

Logos Productions Inc. 1-800-328-0200 or (612) 415-9945

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News Release

June 3, 1998

No. 142

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Kyrgyz Republic, Muratbek Imanaliev, will make an official visit to Canada June 3 to 5 to discuss closer political and economic relations.

Mr. Imanaliev will meet with Mr. Axworthy and Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale, as well as with senior officials of EDC (Export Development Corporation) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"The Kyrgyz Republic has made exceptional progress in democratic and economic reform since independence and promises to be an outstanding partner with Canada in international co-operation, trade and investment," Mr. Axworthy said.

Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Imanaliev will sign a bilateral agreement to prevent double taxation of Canadian and Kyrgyz citizens who work or do business in both countries.

The Kyrgyz Republic, which was part of the former Soviet Union, has been an independent nation since 1991 and has a population of 4.5 million. Canada is the largest foreign investor in the country, mainly in the mining sector.

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News Release

June 4, 1998

No. 143

CANADA'S GLOBAL AND HEMISPHERIC PRIORITIES PROMINENT AT 28th OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN CARACAS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed an Organization of American States (OAS) resolution condemning both India and Pakistan for their recent nuclear tests. The resolution was adopted on the final day of the General Assembly of the OAS, held in Caracas, June 1 to 3.

"In Canada's view, the situation in South Asia constitutes a clear and fundamental threat to international security and therefore to the security of the Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere has chosen co-operation, confidence building and mutual trust as a basis for its security, and is a model for the world," said Minister Axworthy.

On the first day of the General Assembly, Minister Axworthy exhorted Foreign Ministers from the Western Hemisphere to condemn the two countries involved in nuclear tests, stressing the importance of the Hemisphere in providing leadership to the world as it had for the Treaty to Ban Landmines. He also emphasized the need to support the establishment of an International Criminal Court.

The Minister welcomed a resolution supporting greater inclusion of civil society in hemispheric deliberations. Other key resolutions for Canada that were adopted at this General Assembly included: the establishment of a Parliamentary Network of the Americas; the plan to make the Western Hemisphere a landmine free zone; greater respect for international humanitarian law; support for the proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations; and a resolution supporting modernization of the OAS.

Following up on the 50th anniversary of the OAS and on the recent Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, this week's meeting also focussed on reform and renewal of the OAS.



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"As we talk of renewal, it is essential that we keep the hopes and aspirations of our citizens at the forefront. Indeed, to meet the ambitious goals we put forth in Santiago, we must fully engage our people in our efforts. In this respect, civil society and parliamentarians have a key role to play. This engagement can only improve the quality of our work," said Mr. Axworthy.

The General Assembly of the OAS is an annual meeting of representatives of the 34 active member states of the Americas.

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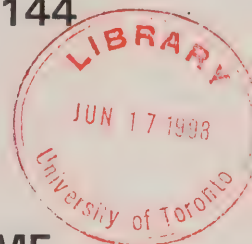
This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

June 4, 1998

No. 144

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND AFRICAN SUMMIT, MEETINGS IN CYPRUS AND LONDON AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT CONFERENCE IN ROME



Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will attend the Organization for African Unity (OAU) Summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on June 9, 1998. He will then travel to Cyprus for bilateral meetings on June 11, to London, England, on June 12, for a meeting of G-8 Foreign Ministers to discuss India and Pakistan's recent nuclear tests, and to Rome, Italy, for the Diplomatic Conference to Establish the International Criminal Court (ICC), June 15 to 16.

In Ouagadougou, the Minister will meet with Heads of State, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers from the 53 member nations of the OAU to discuss a range of topics including promoting the signing and ratification of the Ottawa Treaty to Ban Landmines and issues of concern to the African sub-continent. The OAU, and its member countries, were key partners in the global coalition that worked together to develop the Ottawa Treaty, which opened for signature in Ottawa last December.

On the next leg of his trip, Mr. Axworthy will meet with President Glafcos Clerides and Foreign Minister Ioannis Cassoulides of the Republic of Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktash, and the Representative to Cyprus of the United Nations Secretary-General, Gustav Feissel. Mr. Axworthy will review the political and security situation on the island and will reiterate Canada's commitment to a peacefully negotiated settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Mr. Axworthy next travels to London for a special meeting of G-8 Foreign Ministers to discuss the international response to India's and Pakistan's nuclear testing.

"The decisions of the Indian and Pakistani governments to carry out nuclear tests were highly irresponsible. These actions threaten international security, regional stability and the non-proliferation regime," said Mr. Axworthy. "I welcome British



Foreign Minister Robin Cook's proposal to convene a meeting to discuss the issue. This situation calls for a co-ordinated international response."

In Rome, Mr. Axworthy will reinforce Canada's strong support for a permanent International Criminal Court. Canada has long been a vigorous proponent of this new body and chairs the "Group of Like-Minded States," which works towards the creation of an independent and effective court. Canada has contributed \$40 000 from the Peacebuilding Fund to enable least developed countries to take part in the negotiations.

"The traditional tools and institutions of international diplomacy were not designed to respond to the violations resulting from deadly conflict," said Mr. Axworthy. "Terrible events like those in Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia have spurred the international community to work together to develop new tools such as the International Criminal Court."

The goal of the Rome conference is to establish the framework for the ICC, which will bring to justice those accused of the most serious international offences, such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While in Rome, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini for follow-up discussions on the Declaration of Strengthened Partnership between Canada and Italy, which was signed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi on May 20. Minister Axworthy will also meet with senior Vatican officials to discuss international issues of mutual interest.

The Minister will also take advantage of opportunities throughout this trip to promote Canada's bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations (UN) Security Council for 1999-2000.

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News Release

June 4, 1998

No. 145

AXWORTHY HOLDS SUCCESSFUL TALKS WITH ESTONIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed satisfaction with Canada's increasingly productive relationship with Estonia following a meeting today in Ottawa with Estonian Foreign Minister Toomas Ilves.

Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Ilves discussed regional security issues relevant to the Eastern Baltic and closer co-operation in multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations.

They also discussed the importance of travel between Estonia and Canada by citizens of both countries, especially by family members of the significant Estonian community in Canada.

"Canada appreciates the warm and useful dialogue we are able to maintain with the government of Estonia," said Mr. Axworthy. "We welcome Estonia's perspective on the promotion of regional security in Europe."

Mr. Axworthy noted Canada's interest in expanding trade and investment with Estonia, and stressed the potential of the Arctic Bridge project to provide a regular transport link between Churchill, Manitoba, and Tallinn, Estonia, via Murmansk, Russia.

Mr. Ilves was on a one-day official visit to Canada.

- 30 -

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News Release

June 5, 1998

No. 146

CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

National Revenue Minister Herb Dhaliwal will lead the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem in New York, from June 8 to 10. The Canadian delegation will include Solicitor General of Canada Andy Scott, who will give a speech on June 10 on behalf of the Government of Canada.

"The international trade in illicit drugs continues to have significant social, health, economic and political consequences for all countries," said Mr. Dhaliwal. "We must co-operate at the national and international levels to address this problem."

In New York, Canada will promote an active and balanced approach to international anti-drug co-operation as a necessary response to the changing situation in Canada and around the world. As well, Canada will seek to ensure that the issues of drug supply and reduction in drug demand are addressed in a balanced way.

"Drug trafficking is an international problem with growing links to other types of crime such as money laundering," said Mr. Scott. "Furthermore, money laundering has become a global threat to the integrity and stability of financial and trading systems."

At the international level, Canada made a commitment at the Santiago Summit of the Americas in April to host a group of hemispheric foreign ministers on drug issues. Following the Summit, Canada was elected to chair the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) Working Group that will develop the multilateral evaluation mechanism for monitoring national and international drug efforts.

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News Release

June 5, 1998

No. 147

AXWORTHY, MARLEAU ANNOUNCE NEW INITIATIVES FOR CHIAPAS

Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Diane Marleau, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, today announced increased assistance for Indigenous communities in Mexico. They also noted that further measures are being considered following recommendations made by five Canadian Members of Parliament, who recently travelled to the region.

"I am pleased that this parliamentary delegation was able to investigate the situation in Chiapas with the co-operation of the Government of Mexico," said Mr. Axworthy. "The delegation's first-hand look at conditions in the region has reinforced my view that dialogue, as well as the presence of responsible international observers, is crucial to reducing tensions and reaching a peaceful solution. We value the input from all parties involved and have already begun implementing some of the delegation's recommendations."

"Canada supports a number of development and humanitarian activities in the region, and is looking for ways of responding further in light of the rapidly changing situation in Chiapas," said Minister Marleau.

Ministers Axworthy and Marleau announced that Canada has agreed to increase the Canada Fund allocation for Mexico for 1998/99 to \$500 000, an increase of \$50 000, and to target \$100 000 of the total amount to support the socio-economic development of Indigenous communities. Canada Fund projects in Chiapas in the past have focussed on areas such as food self-sufficiency, purchase of equipment for a community-based hospital, preservation of Indigenous culture and human rights workshops.

Mr. Axworthy expressed Canada's interest in sending observers to Chiapas for the local elections in October 1998, pending a formal invitation from the Mexican government. The Canadian government will also be inviting Mexico's Federal Co-ordinator for Chiapas,



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Mr. Emilio Rabasa, to Canada in response to a recommendation by the parliamentarians.

Finally, the ministers welcomed Mexico's recent decision to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to resume its humanitarian work in the State of Chiapas. They stressed the importance of co-operative efforts by all parties to disarm civilian groups, and welcomed the parliamentarians' interest in continuing their discussions with Canadian non-governmental organizations active in Chiapas.

"Mr. Rabasa has offered to come to Canada and we hope that he will be able to meet with Canadian parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations," said David Kilgour, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), who visited Mexico last January.

Jacques Saada (Brossard-La Prairie), Daniel Turp (Beauharnois-Salaberry), David Iftody (Provencher), Diane St-Jacques (Shefford) and Dick Proctor (Palliser) visited Mexico City and Chiapas from May 8 to 12. The delegation met Wednesday with Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Kilgour to brief them on their meetings with a broad cross-section of government officials and civil society in Mexico City and Chiapas.

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Jews Release

June 5, 1998

No. 148

CANADA URGES ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA TO RESOLVE BORDER DISPUTE PEACEFULLY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today deplored the mounting conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and urged both sides to exercise restraint, to accept international mediation and to resolve the issue peacefully. Fighting has escalated with bombing attacks on June 5 on Makele in Ethiopia and on Asmara, the Eritrean capital.

"Canada hopes that there will be a peaceful resolution of the border issue without further bloodshed," said Mr. Axworthy. He called on both sides to refrain from further fighting and to co-operate with mediation efforts.

Canadian concerns about mounting tensions were earlier conveyed to the Ethiopian and Eritrean authorities by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in Ottawa and through the Canadian Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which is accredited to both countries.

"We are concerned for the security of Canadians," said Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour. "The Canadian Embassy in Ethiopia and our Honorary Consul in Eritrea are following the situation closely."

DFAIT issued a travel advisory today advising Canadians to defer travel to Eritrea or, if in the country, to depart immediately. There are approximately 125 Canadians in Eritrea registered with the Canadian Embassy in Addis Ababa and the Consulate in Asmara. Arrangements have been made to help Canadians leave Eritrea.

Mr. Axworthy noted that both President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia have significant leadership roles in subduing conflict in the region.

Eritrea and Ethiopia are members of a regional mediation committee seeking to restore peace in Sudan, and Ethiopia has the Organization of African Unity mandate to mediate the conflict in Somalia.



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Following a United Nations-sponsored referendum in 1993, in which 99.8 percent of the valid votes cast were in favour of separation from Ethiopia, Eritrea became an independent state. The current fighting between the two countries was precipitated by a border skirmish on May 6, 1998.

-30-

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News Release

June 5, 1998

No. 149

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS MASSACRE IN COLOMBIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the massacre of 25 civilians by paramilitary forces in Colombia and expressed his serious concerns about the overall human rights situation in that country.

"We are shocked by this tragic event, and we call on the Government of Colombia to investigate these assassinations thoroughly," said Mr. Axworthy. "We have already conveyed our deep concern to the Colombian officials through our embassy in Bogota."

The victims are civilians who were kidnapped three weeks ago in Barrancabermeja, site of Colombia's largest oil refinery. The massacre is one of the worst in recent months by the paramilitaries, who have targeted leftist guerrillas as well as civilians whom they consider to be sympathizers. This incident follows another brutal massacre May 5 of 21 civilians in the town of Puerto Alvira, apparently by paramilitary forces.

There have also been a number of assassinations of prominent Colombian human rights defenders including: the April 18 murder of Dr. Eduardo Umaña Mendoza, a distinguished jurist; the April 13 murder of María Arango, a former political activist; the February 27 murder of Jesús María Valle, the leading human rights advocate in the Department of Antioquia; and the May 1997 murders of Mario Calderón and Elsa Alvarado, members of the Center for Popular Investigation and Education (CINEP), a prominent human rights organization.

"Canada strongly supports the work of Colombians who are defending human rights and trying to build a more peaceful society," added the Minister.

Secretary of State (Latin American and Africa) David Kilgour also condemned the massacre. "When I visited Colombia in late April, I transmitted our serious concerns regarding human rights abuses," said Mr. Kilgour. "These killings are senseless and will only



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undermine efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the violence in that country."

- 30 -

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News Release

June 8, 1998

No. 150

MARCHI LAUNCHES INTERNET SITE DEDICATED TO CANADIAN BUSINESSWOMEN

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today introduced "Businesswomen in Trade," the first Internet Web site created especially for Canadian women exporters. Through the interactive technology of the Internet, Canadian businesswomen now have a new practical way to do business at home and abroad.

"Our government is committed to helping Canadian businesswomen to prepare for and succeed in the export market," said Mr. Marchi. This new Web site offers a unique way to link women entrepreneurs with each other and with the world in order to promote their business interests."

The new site is dedicated to the needs of Canadian businesswomen and offers easy electronic access to a broad range of business information in Canada and around the world. It can also be used by officials to gather data to facilitate policy and program planning. Development of the Internet site is part of an overall strategy initiated last fall by Minister Marchi to encourage and support more Canadian businesswomen exporters.

"Companies led by women are becoming a new force in the Canadian economy," said Mr Marchi, "but they are under represented in the export market. With this new Web site, we have created a focal point on the Internet for the exchange of useful information that will promote the interests of Canadian businesswomen in the international marketplace."

Of the more than 700 000 firms created in Canada between 1990 and 1995, 30 per cent are led by women. These enterprises provide employment for 1.7 million Canadians and create new jobs at a rate four times the national average.

Beginning tomorrow, departmental officials will commence a national tour to encourage increased participation by Canadian businesswomen in export marketing, including using the Web site as a shared information resource.



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The URL is: <http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/businesswomen/menu-e.asp>

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

BUSINESSWOMEN IN TRADE WEB SITE

The new Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) "Businesswomen in Trade" Web site provides a unique focal point on the Internet for Canadian businesswomen. The site was created to support businesswomen with information relevant to exporting and export activities. It provides an Internet entry point to a wealth of information on how to prepare for and to succeed in the export marketplace, including direct links to other useful Internet resources and sources of information of interest to Canadian businesswomen.

Some of the features provided by the Web site include:

- exporter preparation and know-how, with direct links to many government information services;
- an on-line diagnostic to test business owners' export readiness;
- success stories of women exporters;
- on-line registration to the WIN database allowing companies to be available for exporting opportunities that arrive at Canadian Embassies and Consulates abroad;
- Web site links to 30 sites in Canada and abroad focussing primarily on business services;
- news and press releases with emphasis on women in trade, current missions and international trade summits;
- calendar of relevant events;
- businesswomen's surveys and studies;
- on-line registration for database collection of businesswomen interested in being linked to other businesswomen in their field; and
- an on-line quiz about Canadian women who have achieved firsts.

The new Web site is part of DFAIT's overall InfoExport presence on the Internet. It provides a unique, user-friendly tool specifically designed for Canadian businesswomen.

The Internet Web site address is:

<http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/businesswomen/menu-e.asp>

June 9, 1998

No. 151

CANADA ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTION TO LANDMINE CLEARANCE EFFORTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau today announced Canadian support to strengthen the Mine Action Program in Mozambique — one of the world's most heavily-mined countries, with an estimated 1 to 2 million landmines.

"Canada continues to urge countries to sign and ratify the Ottawa Convention banning landmines, but at the same time we need to help countries like Mozambique alleviate the social and economic burden that landmines pose," said Minister Axworthy, speaking at the Organization of African Unity Summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. "Mozambique achieved peace in 1992, but sustained peace depends on reconstruction, the resettlement of displaced people and economic development. Mine clearance is an essential part of that equation."

The Canadian International Development Agency will manage this \$10.5 million three-year project. It will include the gathering of information on the location of mines and how to establish priority areas for mine clearance. Canadian technical specialists will help train local personnel to survey and manage a national computer database on mine location and clearance activities. They will also provide support for mine surveying and digitized mapping using Canadian technology. The training component of Canada's contribution is particularly critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the mine action program.

"Landmines are not only a serious threat to human life, but they also derail economic and social development," said Madame Marleau. "People who no longer venture into the fields to grow crops go hungry. People who fear travelling on mined roads are cut off from markets. By providing assistance for mine location and clearance in Mozambique, Canada is helping restore people's lives and livelihoods."



Canadian experts will join the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Accelerated Demining Program; the UNDP has assumed the lead role for UN mine action in Mozambique. The provision of Canadian technical assistance and training will strengthen existing mine action activities through an improved definition of the problem and can help lead to minefields being cleared in years rather than decades.

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. Landmines were deployed by all parties during three decades of war, often in a random and indiscriminate manner, and few accurate records were kept. The expense of medical care and rehabilitation for mine victims adds further burden to the economy. Women and children are most vulnerable, since they are most often responsible for agriculture, fuel and water gathering.

Canada's financial contribution is part of its commitment to implementing Ottawa Process II and comes from the \$100 million landmine fund announced by the Prime Minister at the Ottawa Treaty Signing Conference in December 1997.

Funding for the projects announced today was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

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News Release

June 9, 1998

No. 152

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES DEBT RELIEF CONTRIBUTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced a Canadian contribution of \$30 million toward debt relief among the world's most heavily indebted poor countries. Mr. Axworthy made his announcement in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where he is attending the Organization of African Unity Summit. This is Mr. Axworthy's first official trip to Africa.

"International debt is one of the most critical obstacles to progress for emerging economies, and Canada has been a leader in helping to relieve developing countries of this burden," said Mr. Axworthy. "Since 1978, Canada has forgiven \$3 billion in international debt, much of which was owed by African countries. In fact, since 1987, all Canadian development assistance has been provided in the form of grants."

In 1975, the World Bank established the Interest Subsidy Fund (ISF) through voluntary contributions from Canada and the governments of 14 other OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and oil-exporting states. It was established to provide interest rate subsidies on loans made by the Bank to low income countries suffering from rising oil prices.

Despite providing nearly US\$292 million in subsidies since 1975, the ISF has accumulated US\$170 million in unused resources. Canada's share is just over US\$22 million, or about C\$30 million at current exchange rates.

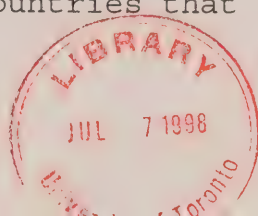
Canada will contribute its share of this surplus to the World Bank's Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Trust Fund. The HIPC Initiative stems from appeals made by the G-7 at the Halifax Summit in 1995 to further ease the debt burdens of the world's poorest and most heavily indebted countries.

As most of these countries are in Africa, Canada has decided to use the bulk of its ISF refund (C\$20 million) to help the African Development Bank write down its claims against HIPC-eligible member countries. African countries that have so far benefited



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from the HIPC initiative include: Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Côte d'Ivoire. Mali and Guinea-Bissau are expected to qualify shortly. In March 1998, Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, contributed \$8 million to Mozambique to help it reduce its debt under the HIPC.

Funding for the projects announced today was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

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News Release

June 9, 1998

No. 153

CANADA TO SUPPORT PEACEBUILDING PROJECTS IN AFRICA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau today announced that Canada will support four peacebuilding projects in Africa. Mr. Axworthy made the announcement in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where he is attending the Summit of the Organization of African Unity.

"I am especially pleased, on my first trip to Africa, to be able to announce Canada's contribution to these projects," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada recognizes the resolve of Africans to meet the challenges to peace and stability faced by the continent. Peacebuilding projects, such as these, offer an opportunity to reinforce this commitment and support the peace process from the ground up by strengthening relationships and enhancing links between communities. This can lead to real and sustainable human security in Africa."

"Without peace, there can be no development, in Africa or elsewhere," said Madame Marleau. "Canada's support for these initiatives will help African societies build a solid base for peace. With our help, communities can begin to heal the wounds that conflict has caused, and work to revive economic and social development on the continent."

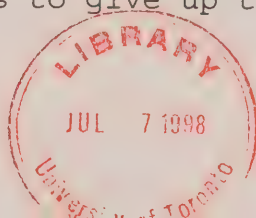
Canada will contribute up to \$1 175 000 to the following projects:

Mali (West Africa): Canada is contributing to the United Nations Development Program in support of Mali's successful efforts to promote a moratorium on small arms in West Africa. The project will include lobbying governments in West Africa to adopt the moratorium, co-ordinating the efforts of member states and providing technical assistance in matters of peace, security and disarmament. The initiative will also promote awareness and advocacy through local-language media programming aimed at encouraging former combatants to give up their weapons. The



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program is expected to result in a reduction in the number of small arms flowing through West Africa and an increased awareness of human security, as well as contribute to an environment more conducive to development. Canada's funding for this project is \$400 000.

Burundi: The Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation is offering customized training sessions on conflict resolution and prevention techniques at the community level for civil society organizations, including church, women's and human rights groups. This project allows civil society organizations with a demonstrated interest in peace to be trained in conflict resolution techniques. Canada's contribution to this project is \$125 000.

Somalia: Canada will support a study and analysis by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the challenges of rebuilding a war-torn society. This project provides a forum for neutral and democratic discussion to build bridges between communities formerly in conflict with one another. It also builds on the local capacity to analyze and find solutions to their own peacebuilding problems. Canada's contribution totals \$150 000.

Rwanda: The Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution (CICR) will implement a "train-the-trainer" program modelled on the success of its 1997 pilot project. This time, CICR will develop a cadre of civilian Rwandan conflict resolution trainers and a large number of practising civilian mediators and facilitators that cuts across all social strata. Initial training will take place in Rwanda with follow-up through the CICR's regular training program in Ottawa. The program will lead to an increased number of Rwandans who know and practise effective conflict resolution techniques. It will also empower civil society to resolve its own community conflicts peacefully. The CICR will receive up to \$500 000 from Canada to implement this program.

Funding for these projects will be made through the Peacebuilding Fund, managed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The two-year \$20 million Fund is designed as a rapid response mechanism to support urgent peace initiatives including peace accords, strengthening of locally generated peacebuilding initiatives, as well as enhancing governance and civil society. The Fund is a vital element of the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative launched in October 1996 as a joint initiative of CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Funding for the projects announced today was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

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News Release

June 9, 1998

No. 154

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AXWORTHY COMMENTS ON DEATH OF NIGERIA'S GENERAL ABACHA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today responded to the news of Nigerian Head of State Sani Abacha's death on June 8.

"I have been informed of the passing away of General Abacha. In his country, General Abacha was Chairman of the Provisional Ruling Council. This body's principal task is to bring Nigeria through a three-year transition to democratic government and the rule of law."

"We trust that the death of its Chairman will not deter the Council from achieving its vital objective and may spur its members to ensure the full participation of all Nigerians in the upcoming election."

"On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the election of Chief Moshood Abiola, the Council has a historic opportunity to support the democratic process in Nigeria by releasing Chief Abiola and other political prisoners."

Minister Axworthy made his comments while attending the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

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News Release

June 10, 1998

No. 155

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AXWORTHY STEPS UP SANCTIONS AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA AND SERBIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Canada will implement further measures against the governments of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) following the offensive against Kosovar Albanians, which destroyed villages and created an outflow of refugees toward neighbouring Albania.

The measures include a ban on investment in the Republic of Serbia and a freeze of the assets of the FRY and Serbian governments in Canada. G-8 Foreign Ministers had agreed to these measures in May, but their implementation had been suspended in order to let Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic prove his good faith when he engaged in talks with Kosovar leader Ibrahim Rugova.

"It is now obvious that President Milosevic has chosen confrontation rather than negotiation," said Minister Axworthy. "Attacks against civilians leave the international community with no other option than to apply further pressure on the governments of Yugoslavia and Serbia."

The Minister expressed his wish that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) accelerate its consideration of a full range of possible actions to prevent further deterioration of the situation in the region. Among the actions contemplated are preventive deployments in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), as well as joint exercises with these two countries in order to strengthen their security.

Mr. Axworthy added that Canada is encouraging the United Nations Security Council to hold urgent discussions on the situation in Kosovo and to provide the necessary basis for international action aimed at preventing further actions against the civilian population in the region.



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On March 9, Canada announced measures including:

- instructing EDC (Export Development Corporation) to suspend consideration of export credits for the FRY until further notice;
- suspending discussions with Yugoslav Airlines concerning charter landing rights in Canada and;
- putting on hold discussions of other bilateral agreements until further notice.

On June 12, the Minister will meet with his G-8 counterparts in London to discuss a co-ordinated response to this matter.

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News Release

June 10, 1998

No. 156

AXWORTHY WELCOMES RELEASE OF EAST TIMORESE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the decision of Indonesian President Habibie to grant amnesty to some East Timorese political prisoners and drop charges against others. President Habibie's decision was contained in a presidential decree announced by Justice Minister Muladi on June 10.

"The decision to release a number of East Timorese political prisoners is an encouraging sign of the new Indonesian government's commitment to extending reforms to East Timor," said Mr. Axworthy. "In light of this development, Canada reiterates its call for Indonesian authorities to include East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao among the political prisoners to be released."

Mr. Axworthy also noted that President Habibie was prepared to grant special status to East Timor, and that public discussions on the future of East Timor were taking place in the territory.

"Canada urges all parties, including security forces, to act with restraint and continue to permit the free expression of differing political views in East Timor," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. "I hope the new Indonesian government's openness will make a positive contribution toward securing a lasting settlement of the East Timor question."

During his visit to Indonesia last April, Mr. Chan raised with Indonesian government leaders human rights issues, including that of political prisoners in East Timor. Earlier this year, Canada provided \$50 000 for a food program in drought-affected East Timor.

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News Release

June 12, 1998

No. 157

MINISTERS WELCOME WTO PANEL REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN BAN OF CANADIAN SALMON

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Fisheries and Oceans Minister David Anderson welcomed a World Trade Organization (WTO) report that concludes that Australia's ban on the import of certain types of Canadian salmon is inconsistent with its WTO obligations.

The report, released today, recommends that the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body request Australia to bring its measure regarding imports of fresh, chilled and frozen salmon from Canada into conformity with WTO rules.

"This final ruling of the WTO Dispute Settlement Panel has very clearly upheld Canada's case," said Minister Marchi. "This important finding also demonstrates that Canada's trade interests are best defended through a system of fair and equitable rules."

"The decision to lift the ban on the import of certain types of Canadian salmon will provide significant benefits to Canadian fishermen and processors," said Minister Anderson.

Australia's ban was first introduced in 1975. After years of unsuccessful bilateral efforts to resolve the dispute, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body established a panel on April 10, 1997, at Canada's request. Australia still has the right to appeal the WTO ruling.

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News Release

June 13, 1998

No. 158

AXWORTHY OUTRAGED BY REPORTS OF SERBIAN MINING

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy was outraged by reports that Serbia is laying anti-personnel (AP) mines along the border between Kosovo and Albania.

"This action is absolutely contrary to the will expressed by 126 countries which have signed the Ottawa Convention banning the use of AP mines," said Mr. Axworthy. "The fact that these instruments of terror will prevent the safe return of refugees to their homes is particularly offensive.

"If these reports are confirmed, President Milosevic's disregard for the concerns of the international community will lead to a further deterioration of the situation in Kosovo. We call on Serbia to stop the use of these odious weapons now."

Yesterday, Minister Axworthy and his Group of Eight (G-8) counterparts called on President Milosevic to cease all action by the security forces affecting the civilian population, to enable effective and continuous international monitoring in Kosovo, to facilitate the return of refugees to their homes and to make rapid progress in the dialogue with the Kosovo Albanian leadership.

- 30 -

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News Release

June 15, 1998

No. 159

AXWORTHY CONCERNED BY STATEMENTS OF IRANIAN OPPOSITION GROUP

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed deep concern at statements made recently by the Mujahedin e Khalq Organization (MKO), an Iranian opposition group that espouses violence in pursuit of its cause. The MKO said that it intends to step up its international activities against the government of Iran.

"Canada finds these threats completely unacceptable. We condemn terrorism, whatever the source," said Mr Axworthy. "We will not tolerate any actions directed against the legitimate interests of other countries, or their accredited representatives, on Canadian soil."

The latest threats come in the wake of a recent bombing of a courthouse in Teheran, which resulted in fatalities and for which the MKO claimed responsibility.

Known members of the MKO are not permitted to enter Canada.

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Jeus Release

June 17, 1998

No. 160

CANADA DEEPENS TIES WITH MERCOSUR, CHAIRS FTAA MEETING IN ARGENTINA

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today that Canada is demonstrating its continued leadership on trade liberalization in the Americas this week by enhancing its ties with Mercosur and by chairing the first meeting of the trade negotiating committee of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

On June 16, representatives from Canada and Mercosur, South America's largest trade grouping, signed a Trade and Investment Co-operation Arrangement (TICA) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Kathryn McCallion, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Trade Commissioner with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, signed the co-operation arrangement with Mercosur on behalf of Canada.

"This agreement with Mercosur will not only help increase trade and investment between Canada and some key economies of the Americas, but will also give momentum to our shared goal of a free trade area that spans the hemisphere," said Minister Marchi.

This morning, also in Buenos Aires, Canada chaired the first meeting of the FTAA's Trade Negotiations Committee, which brings together high-level officials from the 34 FTAA countries. It is the first FTAA meeting since the April 1998 Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, where the talks were launched and where Canada was confirmed as chair of the negotiations in their initial phase. The meeting ends June 19.

"With FTAA negotiations beginning in the fall, our main challenge at this week's meeting is to reach a consensus on specific work plans," said Mr. Marchi. "It's also vitally important to formalize fairly soon how the committee on civil society will work to ensure that our citizens are involved in the process from the beginning."



Canada was instrumental in having the FTAA decide to set up a committee of government representatives that would receive input from a broad cross section of civil society, such as labour, environmental, human rights and business groups. Minister Marchi has also made it clear that Canada will have its own consultations process to ensure that citizens will have input on the FTAA and other major trade and investment initiatives.

"This week's work, plus our groundbreaking agreement with Mexico through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and our successful free trade agreement with Chile all complement one another and lead in the same direction," added Mr. Marchi. "Bit by bit, Canada is more and more active in the hemisphere's trade and economic integration."

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS

- The 1994 Miami Summit of the Americas created a broad blueprint for greater economic, political and social co-operation among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. An integral part of this blueprint was the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).
- In April 1998, Prime Minister Chrétien and leaders from 33 other countries launched negotiations on the FTAA at the second Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile. Canada was chosen to chair negotiations for the first 18 months. Leaders also endorsed several important decisions reached by their trade ministers the month before the Summit:
 - Negotiating groups should begin their work by the end of September 1998.
 - Nine negotiating groups were established on: market access; agriculture; investment; services; government procurement; intellectual property rights; subsidies, antidumping and countervailing duties; competition policy; and dispute settlement.
 - Negotiations would proceed simultaneously in all areas.
 - Miami was chosen as the initial venue for the negotiations.
 - A consultative group on smaller economies would be created to ensure the concerns of smaller nations are taken into account in FTAA talks.
 - A committee of government representatives would be formed to consider submissions from civil society.
 - A joint government/private sector committee of experts on electronic commerce would be formed.
- From 1991 through 1997, Canadian exports to Latin America and the Caribbean more than doubled from \$2.8 billion to \$6.4 billion. Canada now exports more to Latin America and the Caribbean than to Germany and France combined.
- The economies of Latin America and the Caribbean have come of age, and the Americas is now a market of more than 700 million people.

- The FTAA would result in common rules across the hemisphere, making it easier and less bureaucratic to do business as well as discouraging corruption. It would also protect substantial Canadian investments and open new markets to Canadian goods by lowering or eliminating high tariffs or other barriers now applied to them.
- The FTAA would further open up the dynamic, fast-growing economies of the Americas to small-and medium-sized Canadian firms – the source of most new jobs in Canada.
- The FTAA would also help countries of the region to reap the social benefits of free trade. Unlocking the potential of the region will generate more prosperity, and can help governments fund their social agendas – education, health and the alleviation of poverty.
- Negotiations on the FTAA are slated to begin in the fall of 1998, and are expected to last seven years.
- Canada will be a leader in consulting its citizens on how the FTAA should evolve, and will only sign a good deal that has the support of the Canadian public.
- Canada will safeguard its vital interests in such areas as culture, health care, education, social programs, the environment, labour standards, our supply management regime and management of natural resources.
- The FTAA will co-exist with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement and other regional or bilateral arrangements.

MERCOSUR

- The Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) was created in Paraguay in March 1991 with the signing of the Treaty of Asunción by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- Mercosur is an integrated market of some 240 million people. Its gross domestic product (GDP) is about \$1.4 trillion, approximately one-eighth of the GDP of the NAFTA countries. Its nations' per capita income is 30 per cent higher than that of Latin America as a whole.
- Mercosur has reached free trade agreements with Chile and Bolivia, as well as a co-operation agreement with the European Union. Discussions are underway with the Andean Pact countries and Mexico.
- Mercosur is Canada's largest trading partner in Latin America. From 1994 through 1996, two-way trade with Mercosur nations increased by just over 30 per cent, reaching \$3 billion. By the end of 1997, two-way trade had reached \$3.5 billion, a further increase of 17 per cent.
- Major Canadian exports to Mercosur countries are paper, wheat, potash, petroleum products, coal, aircraft parts, machinery, telecommunications equipment, chemicals and heavy machinery.
- A variety of Canadian business sectors would benefit from an enhanced trade and investment relationship with Mercosur, such as agriculture/agri-food; services; and environmental technologies.

CANADA-MERCOSUR TRADE AND INVESTMENT CO-OPERATION ARRANGEMENT

- The Trade and Investment Co-operation Arrangement (TICA) commits Canada and Mercosur to identify measures that distort or impede trade and investment, and to encourage greater co-operation at the World Trade Organization and in the FTAA. Canada and Mercosur have also agreed to form a consultative group where senior officials will meet at least once a year to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- The arrangement also contains an action plan that calls for work on a variety of issues, including:
 - the negotiation of Foreign Investment Protection Agreements between Canada and Mercosur nations;

- co-operation on Customs matters; and
- increased co-operation on labour and the environment, including encouraging the participation of a broad cross section of civil society in trade and investment relations.

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News Release

June 17, 1998

No. 161

AXWORTHY TRAVELS TO NEW YORK

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will take part in a series of events in New York June 18 to 19, including participating in a meeting at the United Nations (UN) to brief senior UN officials and participants from other countries on an Action Plan to assist sexually exploited children and youth.

This Plan was developed by youth from throughout the Americas, who have experienced sexual exploitation themselves and who were delegates at "Out From the Shadows", an International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth held in Victoria, B.C, in March of this year.

This Summit was a follow-up to the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which took place in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 1996. The New York meeting will be chaired by Senator Landon Pearson, Minister Axworthy's special advisor on children's issues, who was also co-chair of the Victoria Summit.

"The exploitation of children for any purpose, whether sexual or for commercial gain, remains odious to Canadians and its eradication continues to be a priority of the Canadian government," said Mr. Axworthy. "The direct input of youth in conferences such as "Out From the Shadows" helps us fill the gaps in knowledge that have long prevented the development of effective strategies to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children."

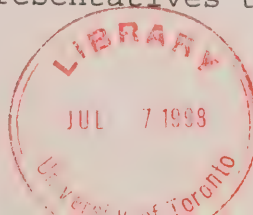
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Carol Bellamy will also participate in this meeting, as will the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu.

On June 19, the Minister will deliver a luncheon address to the Foreign Policy Association on the theme of the landmines campaign and its broader implications. During his stay in New York, he will also meet with permanent representatives to the UN to



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promote Canada's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 1999-2000 term.

- 30 -

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News Release

June 18, 1998

No. 162

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES REHABILITATION PROJECTS FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

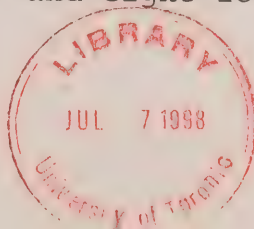
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced support for rehabilitation, training and reintegration projects for sexually exploited youth in six Latin American countries.

Six individual projects in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Bolivia, Peru and Chile will focus on: counselling and rehabilitation; education and training; and reintegration into the labour force and community. They will address the particular needs of 15 young women, and will also benefit up to 100 other young people who have been sex-trade workers or who have otherwise been sexually exploited.

"These projects further support Canada's commitment to the rights of children as a foreign policy priority," said Mr. Axworthy. "They are also built on the conviction that involving youth in decisions that affect them fosters responsible adulthood. Promoting and protecting the rights of children not only demonstrates respect for children, but encourages them, now, and later, as adults, to respect the rights of others."

Mr. Axworthy made the announcement today in New York where he was attending a presentation, at the United Nations, on "Out From the Shadows", an International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth held in Victoria, British Columbia, in March of this year. Several of the youth delegates who participated in the Summit contributed to the development of these projects. The University of Victoria School of Child and Youth Care, which co-hosted the March Summit, will act as supervisor for the six projects announced today, and will administer the funds.

Senator Landon Pearson, Minister Axworthy's special advisor on children's issues, who was also co-chair of the Victoria Summit, will act as overall project director. The projects will be implemented through a partnership of six Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and eight local NGOs in the



countries concerned. The projects are to begin immediately and are expected to be completed by March 1999.

A contribution of \$150 000 is being made through the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, which is affiliated with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The contribution is being made under the Centre's mandate to contribute to the development of Canada's foreign policy, including children's rights, as well as to youth education.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

June 19, 1998

No. 163

AXWORTHY TO UNVEIL GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he would introduce *For the Record, 1997: The United Nations Human Rights System* at the Vienna Plus Five Global Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum on Human Rights taking place in Ottawa, June 22 to 24, 1998.

"I am delighted that Canada has been able to produce this first annual global human rights report as one of its principal contributions to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," said Mr. Axworthy. "Anniversaries such as these are important milestones and provide an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments. However, documents such as this report highlight the work that remains to be done and the intensified commitment needed to pursue the international human rights agenda during the next 50 years."

This is the first annual report, based exclusively on UN sources, to provide in a single document an overview of the international human rights situation as documented by independent UN experts. The report was produced in collaboration with the Ottawa-based NGO Human Rights Internet.

Human Rights Internet, along with an international consortium of 33 other NGOs, is also the principal organizer of The Vienna Plus Five Global NGO Forum. The Forum will examine progress made in the five years since the Vienna Human Rights Conference in June 1993. It will also identify and focus on topics that members of the international NGO community intend to bring to the attention of the UN in the context of the Vienna Plus Five inter-governmental review next autumn.

"The role of NGOs and other civil society players in promoting and protecting human rights globally is vital," said Mr. Axworthy. "Governments working alone cannot achieve the results that a partnership representing all sectors of society can. I commend Human Rights Internet for its contribution to the production of this important report and for its leadership in organizing this forum."



For the Record, 1997 will be available in English and French in a six-volume paperback version, as well as on CD-ROM. It will also be accessible on the World Wide Web at www.hri.ca/fortherecord1997/, as well as on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Web site (see address below).

The Government of Canada, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency, has provided financial and technical support for both the production of the report and the Forum itself.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

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University of Toronto
June 23, 1998

No. 164

AXWORTHY WELCOMES TWENTIETH RATIFICATION OF THE LANDMINE-BAN CONVENTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed Zimbabwe's ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention. Zimbabwe is the twentieth signatory to ratify, demonstrating that the Ottawa Convention banning landmines is moving swiftly to meet the 40 ratifications required for the Convention to become binding under international law.

"Within a little more than six months, we are already at the halfway mark," said Mr. Axworthy. "This is testament to the continued political commitment and public momentum behind this issue. We celebrated our first success on the road to a mine-free world last December, and I look forward to seeing the Ottawa Convention enter into force soon," he added.

One hundred and twenty-two states signed the treaty when it opened for signature in Ottawa last December. There are now 126 signatories and, compared to many other treaties, the pace of ratification is considered exceptionally rapid. Treaties frequently take from three to four years, or more, to achieve the required number of ratifications for entry into force. If the current pace of ratification can be maintained, the Ottawa Convention could be in force by early 1999.

"Few things would so transform the lives of children and communities for the better as full ratification of the Ottawa Convention. It can't happen soon enough. This is one objective the world is capable of reaching," said Stephen Lewis, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund).

"Canada will continue to work in partnership with non-governmental organizations, governments, the United Nations, the International Committee for the Red Cross and others to attain this goal," said Mr. Axworthy. "As we pursue Ottawa Process II -



the implementation phase of the Convention — we all need to keep in mind that the Convention is much more than a simple treaty to control or ban a weapon. It provides a detailed, unambiguous framework for action, covering everything from destruction of stocks to mine clearing to victim assistance and rehabilitation."

Canada was the first country to ratify the Convention, doing so on December 3, 1997, the same day it signed. Canada was joined in ratifying that day by Ireland and Mauritius. The other countries to have ratified are: Belize, Bolivia, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Fiji, The Holy See, Hungary, Mali, Mexico, Niue, Peru, San Marino, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkmenistan.

At the December signing conference, Canada also announced a five-year \$100 million fund to support Convention implementation. To date, Canada has committed \$22.5 million to support mine action programs in mine-affected countries. In Bosnia, Canada is providing \$10 million over five years to substantially reduce the risks posed by landmines and to develop a sustainable local capacity. Canada has committed a further \$10.5 million over three years to strengthen the Mine Action Program in Mozambique and has also provided \$2 million to UNMAS (the UN Mine Action Service).

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News Release

June 24, 1998

No. 165

AXWORTHY REGRETS ISRAELI CABINET DECISION TO EXPAND JURISDICTION OF JERUSALEM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed regret at the Israeli Cabinet's plan to unilaterally expand the jurisdiction of the city of Jerusalem. Canada believes that the status of Jerusalem can be resolved only as part of a general settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, and opposes Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem.

"We see the Israeli Cabinet decision as harmful to the peace process," said Mr. Axworthy. "At this sensitive stage in the peace talks, we consider unilateral actions in Jerusalem as undermining the trust needed for progress. We strongly support all efforts to move the peace process forward."

On June 21, 1998, the Israeli Cabinet unanimously approved a plan that would bring Israeli settlements in the West Bank, as well as areas west of Jerusalem, under the direction of a new umbrella municipal authority run by the city of Jerusalem.

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News Release

June 25, 1998

No. 166

MARCHI ADDRESSES DENVER METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today addressed the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of business opportunities in Canada and to support the visit of the Chamber to Toronto in October.

"When I look at the Canada-Colorado trading relationship, worth over \$1.57 billion in 1997, I see big opportunities," said Minister Marchi. "As Colorado has the fifth-fastest growing economy in the United States, we want to build on an already successful relationship."

In October, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce will be travelling to Toronto, a destination selected for its reputation as an international business centre. The visit will bring business leaders and government officials from both cities together to discuss business and policy issues, and to learn from each other.

Following his address in Denver, Mr. Marchi will take part in the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) World Forum in Beaver Creek, Colorado. The Minister will participate in AEI seminars on a broad range of public policy and current international issues, and will speak on a panel related to free trade and investment flows. This annual gathering brings together over 120 politicians, business leaders and scholars from around the world for three days of discussions.

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News Release

July 7, 1998

No. 167

CANADA REGRETS DEATH OF CHIEF ABIOLA

Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour expressed their regret upon hearing of the death in detention of Chief Moshood Abiola, presumed winner of the 1993 Nigerian presidential election. They also offered Canada's condolences to Chief Abiola's family and to the nation.

"It is with sorrow that I have learned of the passing of Chief Abiola," said Minister Axworthy. "His death has deprived the Nigerian people of an individual who could have made a major contribution to national reconciliation and democracy. The Nigerian government must now move decisively and unequivocally to ensure a freely contested and fair election for a new President."

Mr. Axworthy also called upon the Nigerian government to release immediately all remaining political prisoners.

"With the passing of Chief Abiola, we can only encourage the Nigerian people to continue their efforts to realize his vision for a free and democratic Nigeria now," said Secretary of State Kilgour.

After the 1993 elections were annulled, Abiola declared that he was the rightful president of Nigeria. The regime accused him of treason and jailed him in 1994. The democratic movement in Nigeria and the international community, including Canada, denounced his imprisonment and consistently called for his unconditional release. His family has always claimed that the years in detention threatened his already precarious health.

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News Release

July 8, 1998

No. 168

CANADIAN DOCTOR TO ASSIST AT ABIOLA AUTOPSY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that a Canadian doctor would assist in the autopsy to be performed on Chief Moshood Abiola, the Nigerian political leader who died of an apparent heart attack on July 7, 1998, while in detention.

Dr. James Young, Chief Coroner for the Province of Ontario, will be the Canadian member of an international team from Britain, the United States and Canada. The team will examine the body of Chief Abiola and investigate the circumstances in order to establish the cause of death.

"I am pleased that Canada is able to respond positively to a request for assistance from the Abiola family," said Mr. Axworthy. "Dr. Young is a distinguished Canadian public servant and scientist whose specialization is in forensic science, and he will bring a unique blend of experience and knowledge to this examination."

The team of doctors will travel to Lagos immediately. The Nigerian government has agreed to the terms of this request by the Abiola family.

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News Release

July 9, 1998

No. 169

AXWORTHY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RECENT EVENTS IN BURMA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed concern at reports that Burma's military authorities have prohibited leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD), including Secretary-General Aung San Suu Kyi, from travelling outside Rangoon to meet with local party members.

"This incident is the latest in a series of disturbing events that point to an increase in repression and harassment of Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy," said Minister Axworthy.

The Canadian Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Robert Desjardins, who is based in Bangkok, is currently in Rangoon. He is seeking a meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi, and will convey to Burma's military leadership Canada's deep concern for her safety.

"In a democratic society, political parties and their members must be able to operate freely and without fear of persecution. Any actions by the Burmese authorities to restrict these freedoms are unacceptable," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

Burma's national elections on May 27, 1990, resulted in a landslide victory for the NLD. The military regime has refused to honour the election results.

The Canadian government continues to urge the Burmese military regime to initiate a meaningful dialogue with Burma's pro-democracy leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, as an important step toward the restoration of democracy.

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Verus Release

July 10, 1998

No. 170

CANADA TO ASK FOR WTO PANEL ON BRAZILIAN EXPORT PROGRAM

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today that Canada will ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) to establish a dispute settlement panel on PROEX, a Brazilian export program that Canada believes violates WTO rules.

Canada's request for a panel will be on the agenda at the July 23 meeting of the WTO's dispute settlement body. Canada will ask the panel to examine whether preferential interest rates provided by PROEX for purchasers of Brazilian exports are prohibited subsidies. In Canada, the harmful effects of PROEX have been most evident in the aerospace sector.

"Canada and Brazil have worked very hard to resolve this dispute, but we have clearly reached an impasse," said Minister Marchi. "The Canadian aerospace sector is being hurt by the PROEX program, and Canadian jobs are threatened. It's time to have the WTO rule on this dispute."

Under PROEX, foreign purchasers of Brazilian exports benefit from payments that reduce financing costs. Canada considers these payments to be an export subsidy that is prohibited under the WTO subsidies agreement.

Canada's request for a WTO panel follows two years of consultations with Brazil in efforts to solve the dispute, including the appointment of special envoys in January 1998. Canada believed that the envoys' report, submitted to both governments in May 1998, formed a strong framework to settle the dispute. Negotiations and exchanges of proposals proceeded in good faith throughout June and as recently as this week, but have not to date provided an adequate basis for a resolution of the dispute. Initiation of the WTO panel process does not preclude further negotiations.

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Backgrounders are attached.



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Backgrounder

THE PROEX DISPUTE

Summary

- Canada's request for a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel on Brazil's PROEX program follows more than two years of intensive consultations with Brazil. This has included bilateral talks at the highest levels, formal WTO consultations, and a review and report by special envoys selected by each government.
- In Canada's view, these consultations have reached an impasse, and a solution is now urgent. A ruling by a WTO panel is the only way to resolve the dispute.
- Canada believes that PROEX is not consistent with WTO rules. PROEX is an illegal export subsidy that offers buyers of Brazilian exports below-market interest rates and, in the case of aircraft, reduces the price of each plane by more than US\$2 million, or by about 15 per cent.
- Over the past two years, commitments made under PROEX for Embraer exports are estimated to be as much as US\$2.5 billion in grants.
- PROEX is an export subsidy that directly affects the price of products. This kind of subsidy program – direct grants to buyers – distorts the market for aerospace products, and is the kind of blatant subsidy that WTO members consider to be a priority for elimination.
- Canada believes that each day PROEX remains in effect, Canadian aerospace firms and their suppliers across Canada are prevented from winning major contracts for their world-class products, and high-value Canadian jobs are threatened. The government can no longer allow such a critical sector of Canada's high-technology economic future to be under siege.

Context and History

- PROEX is a Brazilian export subsidy program used for promoting the purchase of a wide range of goods and services.
- Canada first expressed concerns about the use of PROEX in Brazil's aerospace sector in 1996. In June 1996, Canada requested consultations under the WTO Subsidies Agreement.

Following those consultations in July, Canada was even more convinced that PROEX violated WTO rules.

- In October 1996, Canada asked the WTO Dispute Settlement Body to establish a panel on PROEX. Canada withdrew this request in October 1996 after Brazil's Foreign Minister visited Canada and a solution seemed more hopeful.
- Talks again broke down, and Brazil then requested WTO consultations on a variety of programs that support Canadian industry.
- Attempts to negotiate a solution were revived when Prime Minister Chrétien met President Cardoso in Brazil during the Team Canada '98 trade mission. In late January, Canada and Brazil each appointed a special envoy to recommend ways to resolve the dispute.
- In early May 1998, after more than three months of work, the envoys delivered their recommendations to their leaders. They recommended that the two governments negotiate, within two months, a bilateral accord that:
 - is consistent with the WTO Agreement;
 - subjects export financing programs to a "common template," using the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Consensus as a model;
 - contains a dispute settlement mechanism, including annual consultations and recourse to a neutral and independent Monitor who can review support programs and provide an opinion on their consistency with the bilateral agreement;
 - provides for consultations with respect to domestic programs to determine their WTO consistency.
- Canada considered that the envoys' report provided a good framework and sound basic principles for resolving the dispute over government support for sales of regional aircraft.
- It soon became apparent, however, that a negotiated solution on the basis of the envoys' report was not possible, and that Brazil was not prepared to freeze the application of PROEX for even a short period during which negotiations could be completed.
- At that point, Canada decided that a WTO panel was the only way to resolve the dispute.

- Canada remains open to a negotiated settlement with Brazil based on the May 1998 envoys' report.

The Stakes: Canada's Aerospace Industry

- The Canadian aerospace sector consists of more than 400 companies and employs approximately 60 000 people across Canada (1997 figures).
- The Canadian aerospace industry influences the output and performance of many other sectors of the Canadian economy. Leading aerospace firms work with numerous suppliers and sub-contractors across Canada in the production of complete aircraft, engines, structural components, repair and overhaul, satellites, flight simulators and many other products.
- The aerospace sector depends heavily on trade for its success. In 1997, Canada exported \$9.4 billion worth of aircraft industry products to world markets, or about 70 per cent of total sales of \$13.4 billion.
- Aerospace is a vitally important incubator of advanced technologies, bringing together a critical mass of Canadian firms that are helping to build a future economy based on high-technology, value-added products. The sector spends about \$880 million a year on research and development.
- Canada is among only a handful of nations with an advanced, diversified aerospace sector. The range of design and manufacturing expertise in Canada is comparable to that of many larger economies.
- Canada has the sixth-largest share in global aerospace markets, competing with many larger economies such as the United States, France, Germany and Japan.

Chronology

- **June 1996:** Canada first expresses concerns about the use of PROEX in the aerospace sector, and requests consultations.
- **July 1996:** Consultations on PROEX take place in Geneva under WTO Subsidies Agreement.
- **October 1996:** Canada sends letter asking the WTO to establish a dispute settlement panel.

- **October 1996:** Foreign Minister Lampreia visits Canada, meets Minister for International Trade.
- **October 1996:** Canada withdraws request for WTO panel pending further negotiations.
- **November 1996:** Consultations on PROEX took place with Brazil in Geneva.
- **November 1996:** Consultations on PROEX took place with Brazil in Brasilia.
- **December 1996 to May 1997:** Exchange of draft proposals for a bilateral agreement.
- **March 1997:** Brazil requests WTO consultations on programs that support Canadian industry.
- **April 1997:** Consultations in Geneva on Canadian programs.
- **November 1997:** Prime Minister Chrétien and President Cardoso discuss the issue by telephone.
- **January 16, 1998:** Prime Minister Chrétien visits Brazil on Team Canada, speaks to President Cardoso about PROEX. They agree to appoint special envoys.
- **January 29:** Canada and Brazil appoint special envoys.
- **May 7:** Envoys deliver recommendations to Prime Minister Chrétien and President Cardoso.
- **June 8-9:** Consultations in Brasilia.
- **June 25-26:** Consultations in Washington, D.C.
- **July 10:** Canada informs WTO of intention to request dispute settlement panel.

Backgrounder

FLOW CHART OF WTO TRADE DISPUTE

The purpose of this indicative flow chart is twofold. First, to highlight the main steps in the evolution of a trade dispute based on standard proceedings under the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) and, secondly, to provide a synoptical view of DSU time frames.

Request for Consultations

If responding party does not reply within 10 days, or if it does not enter into consultations within 30 days, or at period mutually agreed, the complaining party can request the establishment of a panel (other WTO Members with substantial trade interest have 10 days to join the consultations).

Consultations

60 days

Complaining State May Request Panel

The complaining State may request a panel at any time after 60 days from the date the request is received by the other State, provided consultations have not resolved the issue.

Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) Establishes Panel (usually within 10-30 days)

Panel's Terms of Reference Composition of the Panel (within 20 days of the establishment of the panel)

Panel Examination

Unless otherwise agreed, this should not exceed 6 months from composition of the panel.

For cases on prohibited subsidies, it should not exceed 3 months
(includes circulation of interim report within 13 to 22 weeks).

Final Panel Report Circulated to Members and DSB (report circulated to disputing parties a few weeks in advance).

DSB Adopts Panel Report (not before 20 days of circulation).

|
Appeal to Appellate Body
(within 60 days of panel
report)

|
Appellate Review
(60 or 90 days)

|
DSB Adopts Appellate Report
(within 30 days of report)

|
**DSB Monitors Implementation of Adopted
Panel/Appellate Body Recommendations**

Within 30 days of adoption, the responding party must inform the
DSB of its intentions regarding the implementation of the
recommendations.

July 15, 1998

No. 171

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the following diplomatic appointments:

Mark Bailey becomes Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Claude Baillargeon becomes High Commissioner to the Republic of Cameroon.

Marie-Andrée Beauchemin becomes Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Gerald K. Campbell becomes High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Uganda, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and to the United Nations Environment Program, in Nairobi.

David Collins becomes Ambassador to Romania, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova.

Derek Fraser becomes Ambassador to Ukraine.

Janet Graham becomes High Commissioner to the Republic of Ghana.

Jean-Paul Hubert becomes Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Paraguay.

David Hutton becomes Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic (Greece).

John Kneale becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador.

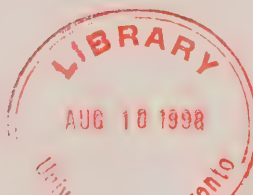
Richard Kohler becomes Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Michèle Lévesque becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Cape Verde, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and as High Commissioner to the Republic of The Gambia.



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Donald McMaster becomes Ambassador the Republic of Côte D'Ivoire.

John Noble becomes Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation.

Brian Northgrave becomes Ambassador to the Eastern Republic of Uruguay.

Arthur C. Perron becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

Haig Sarafian becomes Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic.

John Schram becomes Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Roger Simmons becomes Consul General in Seattle, United States of America.

Allan Stewart becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Venezuela.

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Biographical notes on the appointees are attached.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Mark Bailey (BA Honours [Political Science], University of Victoria, 1973) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1973. Mr. Bailey has had postings to Rabat, Abidjan, Jeddah and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva. From 1992 to 1996, he served as Minister-Counsellor in Washington, D.C. In Ottawa, he has held positions in a number of divisions including the Personnel Division, the International Economic Relations Division, and the International Finance and Investment Affairs Division. Since 1996, he has been Director, Maghreb and Arabian Peninsula Division. Mr. Bailey is married to Raja Bailey and they have three daughters. He succeeds Jean-Guy St-Martin.

Claude Baillargeon (Collège classique Saint-Anne-de-la Pocatière, 1972; BA, [Political Science], Université du Québec, 1976; MA, [Political Science] (International Relations), Université du Québec and Ottawa University, 1975) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1976. He has served abroad in Algiers, Tunis (where he served as Trade Commissioner), Paris, and in New York as Minister-Counsellor (and head of the Economic and Social Section) at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations. In 1984-85, he was seconded to the École nationale d'administration in Paris where he obtained a PhD in Public Administration. In Ottawa, he has held positions in the Economic and Social Affairs Division, the United Nations Division and the Francophone Africa and Maghreb Division. From 1989 to 1992, he served as Director, Francophone Affairs Division and he returned to that position in 1996 for the Hanoi and Moncton Summits. He was awarded the distinction of "Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Pléiade". Mr. Baillargeon will be accompanied by his spouse, Brigitte Léger, and they have one daughter, Julie. He succeeds Pierre Giguère.

Marie-Andrée Beauchemin (BA Honours [Political Science], Marianapolis College, University of Montreal, 1966) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1978. She served abroad in Milan as Consul General from 1988 to 1994 and, since 1994, she has been High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Her assignments at headquarters in Ottawa have included Director, Personnel Policy (1978); Director, Personnel Operations Division (1979 to 1982); Director General, Consular Affairs (1982 to 1983); Director General, Corporate Management Bureau (1983 to 1985); and Assistant Deputy Minister, Communications and Culture Branch (1985 to 1988). Ms. Beauchemin is married to de Montigny Marchand. She succeeds Michael D. Bell.

Gerald K. Campbell (BA, University of British Columbia, 1968) joined the Department of Employment and Immigration in 1971, entering the Department of External Affairs in the consolidation of the foreign service in 1978. He has served in London, Port of

Spain, Hong Kong (twice), Kingston and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva. In Ottawa, he has performed a variety of functions. Most recently, from 1994 to 1997, he was Director General, International Region, at Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Since 1997, he has been Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, in that same Department. Mr. Campbell is married to Edith Ming Wai Hung and they have three daughters. He succeeds Bernard Dussault.

David Collins (BA [History and Politics], Queens University, 1975; BCom [Business Administration], Concordia University, 1976; MSc [Management Studies], University of Durham, England, 1979) qualified as an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, and, in 1994, completed the Senior Executive Development Program at the Banff School of Advanced Management. He joined the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1976 and has served abroad in Minneapolis, Warsaw, Ankara and Brussels (at the North Atlantic Council). Since 1996, he has been Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) in Seoul. In Ottawa, Mr. Collins has held the positions of Senior Departmental Assistant, Minister for International Trade (1988); and Deputy Director, Eastern European Trade Development (1988-1989). He was seconded to the Department of National Defence where he served as Director General, International and Industry Programs, from 1994 to 1996. He is married to Jacqueline Collins and they have one son. Mr. Collins succeeds Gilles Duguay.

Derek Fraser (BA, University of British Columbia, 1958; Certificate d'Études françaises, Université de Montpellier, 1959; LLB, University of British Columbia, 1963) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1963 and has served in Saigon, Bonn, Moscow and Brussels. From 1988 to 1993, he was Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary and, since 1995, he has been Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic (Greece). At headquarters, Mr. Fraser has held a number of positions including Director, USSR and Eastern Europe Relations Division; Director, Western Europe II Division; and Acting Director General, International Cultural Relations Bureau. He is married to Christine Hantel Fraser and they have four children. Mr. Fraser succeeds Christopher Westdal.

Janet Graham (BA Honours [Geography], McMaster University, 1973) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1975 and has served abroad in Pretoria, Port of Spain, Harare and, from 1996 to 1997, was Acting High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. At headquarters, assignments have included work in the United States General Relations Division, the Policy Co-ordination Branch, the Political/Economic Personnel Division and, most recently, as Deputy Director of the Human Resources Strategy Implementation Secretariat. She is married to John Shearman and they have three children. Ms. Graham succeeds John Schram.

Jean-Paul Hubert (BA, (Magna cum Laude), Laval University, 1963; BCL, [Law], McGill University, 1966; MIA, [International Affairs], Columbia University 1969; Certificate of Studies in Latin American Affairs, Columbia University, 1969; PhD, [Political Science], Université de Paris, 1971; Doctor *honoris causa* [International Relations, Moncton University, 1998]) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1971. He has served abroad at Canadian Embassies in Madrid, Havana and Paris. From 1988 to 1990, he served as the Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for the Francophone Summit (1988-1989) and concurrently as Ambassador to Senegal. From 1990 to 1993, he was Ambassador to the Organization of American States in Washington. Since 1994, he has been Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, continuing during this period to serve as "Sherpa" for Francophone Summits. In Ottawa, he has held a number of positions including Senior Advisor for the Commonwealth, Francophonie Summits and Inter-American Affairs (1993-1994), and later as the Prime Minister's personal representative for la Francophonie. He is married to Florence Péloquin and they have five children. Mr. Hubert succeeds Robert Clark.

David Hutton (BA [Political Science and Economics], University of British Columbia, 1967; MBA [Finance and International Business], Queen's University, 1970) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1970 and has served abroad in Kingston, Stockholm, and the Canadian Mission to the United Nations in New York. From 1981 to 1986, he was seconded to the Canadian International Development Agency where he held the positions of Deputy Director of the International Financial Institution Division and Director of the Food Aid Centre. Once again in the Department in 1986, he was posted to Canadian missions in London and Jakarta. In 1994, he returned to headquarters where he has been Director of the European Union Division. He is married to Victoria Hutton (née Phillips) and they have three children. Mr. Hutton succeeds Derek Fraser.

John Kneale (BA Honours [Philosophy and Literature], McMaster University, 1965; LLB, University of Toronto, 1968;) was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 1970. He joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1973. He has had postings to Algiers, Mexico, Kuwait, Teheran, Quito, New York and, since 1995, to Madrid as Minister-Counsellor and Consul. His assignments at headquarters have included the European Community Relations Division, and the Press Office as Departmental Spokesman, International Trade. He was Legislative Assistant and subsequently Senior Departmental Assistant to the Minister for International Trade from 1984 to 1986. He has also served as Director of the Trade Communications-Canada Division and Fellow at the Canadian Foreign Service Institute. Mr. Kneale is married to Suzanne Bergeron and they have two daughters. Mr. Kneale succeeds David Adam.

Richard Kohler (BA, Carleton University, 1970; Dipl., York Professional Management Institute, 1981) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1973. He has served abroad in Sydney, Los Angeles, Paris, São Paulo, Bucharest, Bangkok and as Minister-Counsellor (Commercial and Economic Affairs) from 1992 to 1994 in Paris. In Ottawa, he has held a number of positions including Director of the Training and Development Division from 1984 to 1985, Director of the Trade Commissioner Service Personnel Division from 1988 to 1990, and Director of the Africa and Middle East Trade Development Division from 1990 to 1992. In 1994, he was named Chief Information Officer and Director General of the Information Management and Technology Bureau. He is married to Edwina Kohler and they have two children. Mr. Kohler succeeds Nancy Stiles.

Michèle Lévesque (DEC [Social Sciences], CEGEP de Jonquière, 1972; BA Honours [Arts], University of Ottawa, 1975) joined the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in 1984. Prior to joining the Public Service, she worked at the International Development Research Centre from 1977 to 1979 and at the United Nations in New York from 1981 to 1983. Her assignments at CIDA headquarters included working in the International Non-Governmental Organizations Division, and the Multilateral Technical Co-operation Division, where she was involved with issues relating to the United Nations and la Francophonie. In 1988, she was assigned to the Privy Council Office, Privatization, Government Operations and Labour Relations Secretariat until 1990, when she moved to the Foreign and Defence Policy Secretariat. Returning to CIDA in 1991, she served as Director for Consultations on CIDA's Management Review. Since 1992, Ms. Lévesque has been Director, then Director General, of the International Humanitarian Assistance Division at CIDA. She succeeds Wilfrid-Guy Licari.

Donald McMaster (BA Honours [Political Science and Economics], University of Toronto, 1966; MA [International Relations], University of Toronto, 1967) joined the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in 1973 after serving with Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) in Malawi. His overseas assignments include Georgetown, Dhaka and Harare. In Ottawa, he has held positions in various divisions at CIDA including the Caribbean Division; the China Division, Asia Branch; and the Institutional Co-operation and Development Services Division, Canadian Partnership Branch. Since 1995, he has been Regional Director, Eastern Africa and the Horn, Africa and Middle East Branch. Mr. McMaster is married to Sigrid Johnson and they have three children. He succeeds Suzanne Laporte.

John Noble (BA, Acadia University, 1965; BA Honours [Political Science], Acadia University, 1966) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1966 and has served abroad in Dakar, Ankara, London, Geneva and Boston, where he was a Fellow with the Centre

for International Affairs at Harvard University. From 1993 to 1994, he served as Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic (Greece). In 1994, Mr. Noble was appointed Minister and Deputy Head of Mission in Paris where he served until his new assignment. He acts concurrently as Consul General to Monaco. Mr. Noble's assignments at headquarters have included Official Spokesman and Director of the Press Office (1983-1984), Director General of the United States General Relations Division (1986-1988), Director General of the International Security and Arms Control Bureau (1988-1990), and Director General of the International Organizations Bureau (1991-1993). He is married to Linda Noble and they have three children. Mr. Noble succeeds Réjean Frenette.

Brian Northgrave (BA Honours, University of Toronto, 1962; Dipl., Business Administration, London School of Economics, 1963; MBA, University of Toronto, 1964) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1966 and has served abroad in Islamabad, Rabat, Washington, Brussels (the Mission to the European Community) and, from 1991 to 1995, in Madrid as Minister-Counsellor. In Ottawa, Mr. Northgrave's assignments have included Director of the Compensation and Benefits Policy, Director of the U.S. Trade and Investment Development Division and, since 1995, Director of the Western Europe Division. He is married to Marie-Rose Simon and they have three children. Mr. Northgrave succeeds Roland Goulet.

Arthur C. Perron (B.Comm., Laval University, 1966; M.Comm. [Business Administration], Laval University, 1967; Banff School of Advanced Management, 1977) joined the Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1968. He has had postings at missions abroad in Paris, Algiers, Manila, and Sydney. From 1990 to 1994, he served as Ambassador to Thailand and, since 1995, he has been High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa. In Ottawa, Mr. Perron's assignments have included Director General of the Personnel Operations Bureau from 1985 to 1987 and Director General of the Asia-Pacific Bureau from 1987 to 1990. In 1994, Mr. Perron was appointed Ambassador in support of the Quebec bid for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. He is married to Nicole Perron and they have two children. Mr. Perron succeeds Mr. Michel Perrault.

Haig Sarafian (BA, H.E.C./Université de Montréal, 1973) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1974 and has served in missions abroad for most of his career, with postings in Lima, Baghdad, São Paulo, Tunis, Damascus (in both the trade and political streams) and, most recently, in Paris where he served as Counsellor (Investment) from 1993 to 1997. At headquarters, his assignments have included the Middle East Trade Development Division. From 1990 to 1993, Mr. Sarafian was Director General of the International Trade Centre in Montreal. He is married to Joan Sarafian and they have two daughters. Mr. Sarafian succeeds Daniel Marchand.

John Schram (BA Honours, University of Western Ontario, 1962; LLB, University of Toronto, 1965; MA, University of Ghana, Institute of African Studies, Commonwealth Scholar, 1967) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1969 and has served abroad in Lagos, Manila, London, and Pretoria. Since 1994, he has been High Commissioner to the Republic of Ghana. In Ottawa, he has held positions in the Legal Operations and Pacific Divisions; Arms Control and Disarmament Division; and in the Summit Management office where he served as Logistics and Protocol Co-ordinator for the 1987 Vancouver Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the 1988 Toronto Economic Summit. Mr. Schram also served in the Anglophone Africa Relations Division and the Eastern and Southern Africa Relations Division in headquarters. He is married to Alena Schram and they have three children. Mr. Schram succeeds Gabriel Lessard.

Roger Simmons (BA [Education], Memorial University, 1963; BA [French], Memorial University, 1964; M.Ed [Administration and Supervision], Boston University, 1965) has been both a federal and Newfoundland parliamentarian since 1973 when he was first elected to the Newfoundland House of Assembly. He was re-elected in 1975 and 1979. Federally, Mr. Simmons was first elected to the House of Commons in 1979 and re-elected in 1980. Defeated in 1984, he was elected in the provincial election in 1985 and was Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly from 1987 to 1988. He returned to federal politics in the election of 1988 and was re-elected in 1993. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for Science and Technology and to the Minister of the Environment from 1980 to 1982. Mr. Simmons was sworn in to the Privy Council in 1983 and was Minister of State for Mines in 1983. Following the 1993 election, he served as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Forestry and Fisheries and Chair of the Health Committee. Since 1997, he has been a consultant in Ottawa. Mr. Simmons succeeds the late Thomas Boehm.

Allan Stewart (BA [Economics], University of Western Ontario, 1965; MA [Economics], University of Western Ontario, 1967) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1968 and has served abroad in Stockholm, Seattle and Mexico. Since 1994, he has been Consul General in Atlanta. In Ottawa, Mr. Stewart has had a wide range of assignments including Director of the Cabinet Liaison and Co-ordination Secretariat (1986 to 1987), Director of the Resource Management Division (1987 to 1989), and Director of the Export Investment Programs Division (1989 to 1990). In 1990, he was named Director General of the U.S. Trade, Tourism and Investment Development Bureau. He is married to Donna Stewart and they have two children. Mr. Stewart succeeds Yves Gagnon.

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Verus Release

July 16, 1998

No. 172

AXWORTHY IN ROME FOR FINAL DAY OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT CONFERENCE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will travel to Rome today to attend the final plenary session of the international negotiations to establish the framework for the International Criminal Court (ICC). Mr. Axworthy is visiting at the invitation of Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini.

"Canada has been working hard to win support for an independent and effective ICC that will bring to justice those accused of the most serious international offences such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity," said Minister Axworthy.

Leading up to the Conference, Canada chaired a group of like-minded states during preparatory committee meetings in New York. Canada's Phillipe Kirsch, Legal Advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, was unanimously appointed by the participating countries to act as chair of the ICC negotiations in Rome.

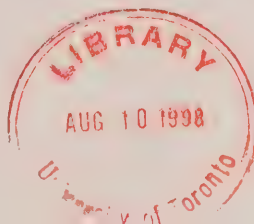
Canada has made clear that it seeks an ICC with:

- acknowledged jurisdiction over such core crimes as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including war crimes committed in internal armed conflicts;
- a constructive relationship with the UN Security Council that preserves the independence and impartiality of the Court;
- an independent Prosecutor who is able to initiate proceedings, rather than proceedings being triggered only by a state complaint or Security Council referral;
- a special focus on the plight of women and children in armed conflict – for example, recognizing rape and the recruitment of child soldiers as war crimes.



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At the plenary session on the final day of the conference, Mr. Axworthy expects to sign the summary document of the negotiations, called the Final Act of the Conference.

The diplomatic conference began on June 15 and is scheduled to conclude July 18.

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News Release

July 17, 1998

No. 173

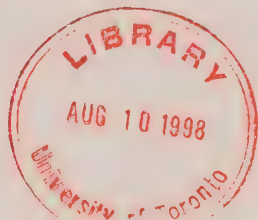
AXWORTHY TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND HONG KONG

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will visit the Republic of Korea from July 23 to 26 to promote bilateral relations, en route to two meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): the ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting (ARF) and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) in Manila from July 27 to 29. Mr. Axworthy will also make a brief visit to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) from July 29 to 30.

While in South Korea from July 23 to 26, Mr. Axworthy will visit the De-Militarized Zone marking the boundary with North Korea to review security concerns on the Korean Peninsula, and see the landmines situation firsthand. He will also meet with members of the new South Korean government, including President Kim Dae-jung, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Park Chung-soo, and Finance and Economy Minister Lee Kyu-sung. In addition to reviewing the political and security situation on the Peninsula, Mr. Axworthy will discuss economic reforms, international human rights, and the Ottawa Convention banning landmines. His visit to the Republic of Korea is the first visit of a Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister since 1994.

"This visit to South Korea provides a timely opportunity for Canada to further develop multifaceted relationships with the new Korean government," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada welcomes the recent initiatives taken by President Kim's administration both to enact domestic economic and social reforms in response to the recent Asian financial crisis, and to enhance dialogue with North Korea."

In Manila from July 27 to 29, Minister Axworthy will attend the annual ARF and PMC meetings where he will meet and discuss international and regional political, economic and security issues with 21 Foreign Ministers of the Asia-Pacific region.



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"The ASEAN Regional Forum provides the informal structure necessary to build confidence and lead Asia on the path to peace and stability," said Mr. Axworthy. "Recent events such as India and Pakistan's repeated nuclear tests have unacceptable consequences for the region as a whole. Canada, which plays a significant role in Asia-Pacific security, must continue pushing the nuclear non-proliferation agenda in forums such as the ARF."

The ARF, established in 1993 as an informal multilateral dialogue on regional security in Asia-Pacific, will be followed by the Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC). While the ARF focusses solely on regional security issues, the PMC provides an opportunity for the 10 Dialogue Partners of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the nine ASEAN members to discuss and exchange views on broader international and regional political and economic issues. Canada has been a dialogue partner of ASEAN since 1977, and Canadian Foreign Affairs Ministers have participated in every ARF Ministerial meeting since the first one in 1994.

While in Hong Kong on July 30, Minister Axworthy will take part in bilateral meetings with Tung Chee-hwa, Chief Executive Officer, and Martin Lee, Leader of the Democratic Party.

"Following this first anniversary of Chinese sovereignty, I will meet with Hong Kong's leaders to support and strengthen the close relationship that Canadians and the people of Hong Kong have always enjoyed," said Mr. Axworthy. "The continuation of the Special Administrative Region's autonomy, openness and democratic system is essential to the Region's future success and prosperity."

This is the first visit of the Foreign Affairs Minister to Hong Kong since his attendance at the July 1, 1997, handover ceremonies.

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News Release

July 17, 1998

No. 174

CANADA NOMINATES ROY MACLAREN FOR POSITION OF WTO DIRECTOR GENERAL

International Trade Minister Marchi Sergio Marchi today announced the Government of Canada's nomination of the Honourable Roy MacLaren for the position of Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"Mr. MacLaren's credentials as a free trader are impeccable and he is eminently qualified for the job," said Mr. Marchi.

Mr. MacLaren is currently Canada's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He is well known to members of the WTO for his distinguished career as Canada's Minister for International Trade from 1993 to 1996.

"The change in the WTO's leadership happens on the eve of important renewed negotiations in the areas of agriculture and services," said Minister Marchi. "Mr. MacLaren has the proven skills needed to forge consensus between developed and developing countries, and to lead the WTO in addressing a challenging agenda."

The WTO's current Director General, Renato Ruggiero, will step down from his post on April 30, 1999. The deadline for the nomination of candidates is October 1, 1998, and a decision is expected to be made by consensus before the end of this year.

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A biography of Mr. MacLaren is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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THE HONOURABLE ROY MACLAREN, P.C.

1996 -	High Commissioner for Canada to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
1993-1996	Minister for International Trade, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (negotiated final stages of the NAFTA and the Uruguay Round of the GATT)
1988-1993	Opposition Critic for Trade and Chairman, Liberal Caucus Economic Policy Committee
1984	Minister for National Revenue
1983	Minister of State (Finance)
1980-1982	Parliamentary Secretary for Energy, Mines and Resources (with responsibilities for environment)
1988-1996 1979-1984	Member of Parliament
1984-1993	Director, Deutsche Bank (Canada) Ltd.; London Insurance Group; Royal LePage Ltd.
1977-1983	President and Publisher, CB Media Ltd.
1974-1977	President, Ogilvy Mather (Canada) Ltd.
1969-1974	Director, Public Affairs, Massey Ferguson Ltd.

Canadian Foreign Service

1968-1969	Ottawa (with responsibilities for developing countries)
1964-1968	United Nations, New York and Geneva (responsible for economic affairs at the Canadian Mission and delegate to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
1959-1960	Canadian Legation, Prague
1958-1959	International Supervision and Control Commission, Hanoi and Saigon

- 1957 Master of Arts, Cambridge University
- 1958 Bachelor of Arts, University of British Columbia
- 1973 Advanced Management Program, Harvard University
- 1991 Master of Divinity, University of Toronto
- Doctor of Sacred Letters (honoris causa) University of Toronto

Honorary Colonel, 7th Toronto Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery

Publications

African Exploits: The Diaries of William Stairs, 1885-1892
(McGill-Queen's University Press, 1998)

Honourable Mentions (Deneau Publishers, 1986)

Canadians Behind Enemy Lines 1939-1945 (University of British Columbia Press, 1981)

Canadians on the Nile 1882-1898 (1978)

Canadians in Russia 1918-1919 (1976)

Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in 1934, Mr. MacLaren is married to Aletha Mitchell and they have three children.

News Release

July 17, 1998

No. 175

CANADIAN OBJECTIVES MET IN AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, attending the final day of a diplomatic conference held in Rome from June 15 to July 17, today welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations to establish a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC).

Representatives from 160 countries have agreed to the Statute of the Court, which will have to be ratified by 60 states before entry into force. It will have jurisdiction over the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including those committed in internal armed conflicts. Proceedings will be initiated by an independent prosecutor, as well as by states. There is also provision for referrals to the Court by the United Nations Security Council.

"The creation of the Court is the culmination of years of arduous work and five weeks of intensive meetings here in Rome," said Mr. Axworthy. "It marks a significant step in the deterrence of the most serious violation of international humanitarian law, and in putting a stop to impunity for the most heinous crimes."

Mr. Axworthy also welcomed the Statute's ground-breaking focus on the plight of women and children in armed conflict by recognizing rape and the recruitment of child soldiers as war crimes. These two issues were priorities for Canada throughout the negotiations.

"This is a court worth having," said Mr. Axworthy. The collective efforts of the international community have realized an institution that will be independent and effective."

Mr. Axworthy congratulated Canada's Philippe Kirsch, Legal Advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, who acted as Chairman of the Conference and who ably presided over the international meeting through the final tough negotiations. He also congratulated the Canadian delegation, including the non-governmental organizations, who participated in



Rome and in the various international meetings to establish the Court. Their drive, commitment and outstanding work were vital to ensure the positive results achieved.

Countries participating in the conference will sign the Final Act of the Conference, the summary document of the negotiation results, in Rome tomorrow.

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News Release

July 20, 1998

No. 176

APPOINTMENTS TO IDRC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointments of Margaret Catley-Carlson and Beryl Gaffney and the reappointments of Herb Breau, Jacques Gérin and Olav Slaymaker to the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

IDRC is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing-country scientists and communities find solutions to social, economic and environmental problems through research. By bringing together people, institutions and ideas, IDRC tries to ensure that the benefits of this research will be shared equitably among all its partners in the North and the South. IDRC is directed by a 21-member Board of Governors comprising 11 Canadian members and 10 non-Canadian members.

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Biographical notes are attached.

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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Biographical Notes

Margaret Catley-Carlson has been President of the Population Council, based in New York, since 1993. Prior to joining the Council, Ms. Catley-Carlson was Deputy Minister, Health and Welfare Canada, from 1989 to 1992. During her 25-year career in government service, she was also President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), from 1983 to 1989, and Deputy Executive Director, Operations, of UNICEF, from 1981 to 1983. Her career began in the Department of External Affairs, where she held diplomatic posts in Sri Lanka and London, and subsequently became Assistant Undersecretary for External Affairs.

Beryl Gaffney was the Member of Parliament for Nepean, Ontario, for two terms (1988-1993 and 1993-1997). She was Councillor, City of Nepean and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) (1978-88), and an administrative employee, City of Nepean Parks and Recreation Department (1967-78). She has been involved with various committees concerned with human rights, heritage and the arts: Member, the International Committee on Human Rights (1989-); Member, the Foreign Affairs Committee (1997); Chair, the Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (1993-96); Member, the Health Committee (1996); Chair, the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration (1995); Chair, the Standing Committee on Human Rights (national issues) (1994); and Liberal Party Critic for Human Rights and Associate Critic for the Status of Women (1989-93). From 1978 to 1988, she was Chair of the Nepean Parks and Recreation Committee; Founder and Chair of the Nepean Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee; the Museum Board; and the Archives Committee. From 1983 to 1987, she was also Chair of the RMOC Advisory Committee on the Arts.

Herb Breau was a Member of Parliament from 1968 to 1984; he is now a businessman. He served as Chairman of the Parliamentary Task Forces on North-South Relations and on Fiscal Federalism in Canada. He was also Chairman of the Parliamentary Association of Canada-United States from 1977 to 1981 and a member of the Trilateral Commission from 1981 to 1984. He took the Privy Councillor's oath and was appointed Fisheries and Oceans Minister on June 30, 1984. Mr. Breau served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and as the Secretary of State for External Affairs. He returned to private life in 1984.

Jacques Gérin is a consultant for Hatch & Associés Inc. in Montreal, and is an engineer with national and international experience in economic development, management of natural resources, and the environment. He was President of Hatch & Associés Inc. from 1990 to 1998; he served as Associate Deputy Minister (North) of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from 1985 to 1989; Deputy Minister of Environment Canada from 1982 to 1985; Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment Canada from 1977 to 1982; and Secretary to the Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning at the Privy Council Office from 1975 to 1977. Mr. Gérin was also Vice-President of CIDA from 1971 to 1975.

Olav Slaymaker is a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and is Chairman of the Liu Centre for International Studies Steering Committee at UBC. Since 1968, he has held a number of positions at UBC: he was Chairman of the Sustainable Development Research Initiative in 1990 and he served as Acting Director of the UBC Sustainable Development Research Institute from 1991 to 1992. Dr. Slaymaker was also Visiting Professor at the Universities of Canterbury (New Zealand), Southern Illinois (United States), and Oslo (Norway). In 1993, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and he has served as Senior Vice-President of the International Association of Geomorphologists. Dr. Slaymaker has a PhD in Geography from Cambridge University (1968).

News Release

July 20, 1998

No. 177

AXWORTHY WELCOMES NIGERIAN ANNOUNCEMENT TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the announcement by General Abdulsalam Abubakar that Nigeria would install a democratically elected, civilian government by May 29, 1999, as well as the decision to release all political prisoners.

"These decisions appear to open the way to the democratic reforms that Canada has been urging the Nigerians to put in place since the annulment of the 1993 presidential elections," Mr. Axworthy said. "It is clear that General Abubakar has listened to the Nigerian people's demands for democracy. We are prepared to work with the Nigerians as they bring these changes into effect."

Abubakar stated that the current government-approved political parties would be abolished, and that new parties would be encouraged to participate in elections to be held at all levels from local to presidential. Mr. Axworthy said that the 10-month transition period announced by General Abubakar is reasonable for the regime to implement such a far-reaching program.

Mr. Axworthy said he was particularly pleased with the release of 10 more prisoners of conscience today, and welcomed the announcement that all political prisoners would be freed.

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Vetus Release

July 22, 1998

No. 178

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS EXECUTION OF IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the execution by authorities in Iran of Ruhu'llah Rawhani, a member of the Baha'i faith. Mr. Rawhani had been detained for one year before his execution for practising his Baha'i faith, and his family was denied permission to visit him in prison.

"This brutal action is a grave disappointment," said Mr. Axworthy. "We have seen the beginnings of positive cultural and social change in Iran and we hold hopes for continuing progress. I call upon Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and President Khatemi to state clearly that this action was carried out without their knowledge or consent."

Minister Axworthy has instructed the Canadian Ambassador in Iran to convey the condolences of the Government of Canada to Mr. Rawhani's family and to ask the Government of Iran to take immediate steps to guarantee the safety of other members of the Baha'i faith who are similarly detained.

- 30 -

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News Release

July 24, 1998

No. 179

CANADA TO ESTABLISH FUND FOR PILOT CULTURAL PROJECTS TO HELP CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada will establish a fund to raise awareness of children's rights in situations of armed conflict. This new fund is available for projects that establish international partnerships with the music, arts and entertainment industries and the media.

"This initiative is one small step, but one that can make a difference in the lives of children affected by conflict in their societies," said Mr. Axworthy. "Projects in the arts can give powerful expression to the experience of children in war and prove an effective instrument for change."

This announcement coincides with the "Symposium on The Artist and Human Rights" being held in Ottawa from July 23 to 25. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is one of the co-hosts of the Symposium, which is exploring how artists around the world give voice to the voiceless.

When the United Nations Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara A. Otunnu, visited Ottawa last April, Mr. Axworthy pledged that Canada would support Mr. Otunnu's role as an advocate for raising awareness of children in armed conflict by promoting cultural activities at the international level.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade contribution is \$200 000. Minister Axworthy will continue to seek partnerships with government departments, cultural agencies and non-governmental organizations by providing networking and information-sharing opportunities in cultural activities around this issue.

Canadian individuals and Canadian arts organizations and agencies are eligible to submit pilot project proposals, as are Canadian non-governmental organizations, universities, colleges, elementary and secondary schools, and other civil society groups.



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Organizations are encouraged to establish partnerships with the private sector and/or government departments wherever possible.

The criteria to submit pilot project proposals are available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/culture/children/menu-e.htm> or by contacting the DFAIT Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division at (613) 992-1557.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

July 26, 1998

No. 180

CANADA WELCOMES LAOS TO THE CANADA-ASEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today signed an exchange of letters welcoming the accession of Laos to the 1993 Canada-ASEAN Economic Co-operation Agreement. The signing took place during a meeting between Minister Axworthy and his Laotian counterpart, Somsavat Lengsavad, on the eve of the ASEAN Regional Forum and Post-Ministerial Conference meetings in Manila, the Philippines, from July 27 to 29.

"Canada is pleased to welcome Laos as a party to the Canada-ASEAN Economic Co-operation Agreement," said Minister Axworthy. "Further expanding this Agreement will contribute to the prosperity of our economies and, by extension, to stability in the region."

The Canada-ASEAN Economic Co-operation Agreement formalizes enhanced co-operation in the industrial, technical, commercial, and development co-operation fields. More specifically, the Agreement promotes regular consultations between the private sector and governments to undertake bilateral and regional economic projects. It also encourages the parties to promote a mutually beneficial investment climate.

In addition to Laos, parties to the Canada-ASEAN Economic Co-operation Agreement include Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. With the accession of Laos, Burma remains the only ASEAN member that is not a party to the Agreement.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

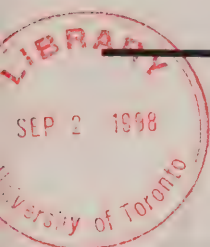
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July 27, 1998

No. 181

CANADA TO SUPPORT PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS IN SOUTH ASIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau today announced support for a project to promote disarmament and alternatives to confrontation in India and Pakistan. Mr. Axworthy made the announcement while attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum meeting in Manila, the Philippines. At these meetings, Mr. Axworthy is emphasizing Canada's view that recent nuclear tests in India and Pakistan represent a significant threat to the security of the region.

"Canada supports those in India and Pakistan who speak out for alternatives to confrontation, confrontation which could continue to drain the economies of both countries and further threaten stability in South Asia," said Mr. Axworthy. "Unless these voices are heard, neither country will have real and enduring security. Peacebuilding projects such as this one can help bring these voices together and make them stronger."

"Canada is committed to helping people in both India and Pakistan to meet their basic needs, including the need for peace and stability," said Madame Marleau. "A central aspect of the project is collaboration between people working across hostile political boundaries in an effort to sow the seeds of peace."

Canada will contribute up to \$87 000 to the project, which will raise awareness of the links between a peace dividend and the basic well-being of individual Indians and Pakistanis. The project will be implemented by the Indian and Pakistani associates of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, in partnership with Peace Fund Canada, a Canadian non-governmental organization. They will organize an advocacy campaign to promote peaceful conflict resolution and disarmament, directed both at political leaders and across society throughout the sub-continent. They will also arrange a series of networking



activities with South Asian non-governmental organizations devoted to peace, human rights, health and development. Central to the project is a collaborative approach across political boundaries while reinforcing the ties between the pro-peace medical community in both countries.

Funding for the project will be made through the Peacebuilding Fund, managed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The two-year \$20 million Fund is designed as a rapid-response mechanism to support urgent peace initiatives, including peace accords, the strengthening of locally generated peacebuilding initiatives, and the enhancing of governance and civil society. The Fund is a vital element of the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative launched in October 1996 as a joint initiative of CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Funding for the project announced today was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

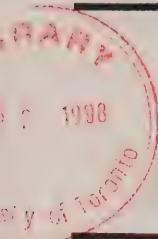
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NEWS RELEASE

July 30, 1998

CAI
EA
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No. 182

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS TREATMENT OF BURMESE PRO-DEMOCRACY LEADER

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the forced return of Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi to her Rangoon home following her attempt to travel outside the city to meet members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

"I strongly condemn the Burmese military regime for what has become continuous harassment of Aung San Suu Kyi and pro-democracy leaders," said Minister Axworthy. "In addition to violating the basic human rights of freedom of movement and association, Aung San Suu Kyi's forced return was an unacceptable threat to her health and safety."

Earlier this month, Minister Axworthy issued a statement expressing Canada's concern over travel restrictions imposed by the Burmese military authorities on Aung San Suu Kyi. He also met informally with the Burmese Foreign Minister at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meeting in Manila from July 27 to 29, where he and six other foreign ministers raised their concerns over human rights violations and democratic reform in Burma.

Following the ARF meeting, Minister Axworthy suggested that Canada would be in contact with these like-minded countries and our ASEAN partners to explore means to maintain pressure on the Burmese authorities and end the repression against Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Canadian Embassy Chargé d'Affaires in Bangkok travelled to Rangoon two weeks ago and met with Aung San Suu Kyi and Burmese authorities to convey Canada's concern over increasing repression and harassment of pro-democracy partisans.

"Canada strongly denounces the continuous human rights violations by the Burmese regime and its refusal to abide by the results of the democratic election," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. "We call on the Burmese authorities to engage in an open and meaningful dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other pro-



democracy supporters to bring about national reconciliation and democratic reform to the people of Burma."

Burma's national elections on May 27, 1990, resulted in a landslide victory for Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD party. Since then, the military regime has refused to honour the election results and has become increasingly restrictive of Aung San Suu Kyi's movements outside of Rangoon.

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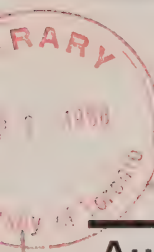
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News Release

August 4, 1998

No. 183

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the following diplomatic appointments:

Ruth Archibald becomes High Commissioner to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Maldives.

James Bartleman becomes High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Mauritius.

Marc-André Brault becomes Consul General in Atlanta, United States of America.

Ferry de Kerckhove becomes High Commissioner to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Honourable Ronald A. Irwin, P.C., C.M., LL.B., Q.C. becomes Ambassador to Ireland.

Claude Laverdure becomes Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Linda McDonald becomes Consul General in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Jean-Michel Roy becomes Consul General in São Paulo, Federative Republic of Brazil.

Kenneth Sunquist becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

John Tennant becomes Consul General in Detroit, United States of America.

Denis Thibault becomes Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Nicaragua.

Robert Vanderloo becomes Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic.

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Biographical notes on the appointees are attached.



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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Ruth Archibald (BA [English and Political Science], Memorial University, 1970;) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1993. Following work with the Government of Ontario, she worked with a number of political organizations from 1972 to 1988. From 1988 to 1992 she was successively Chief of Staff in the office of the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Subsequently, within the Department she held the position of Director, Human Security Division from 1993 to 1996. Since 1997, she has been Director General, Global and Human Issues Bureau. Ms. Archibald succeeds Konrad Sigurdson.

James Bartleman (BA Honours [History], University of Western Ontario, 1963), joined the Department of External Affairs in 1966. He is a member of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation and received his early education in Port Carling, Muskoka. He has had postings to missions abroad in Bogotá, Dhaka, Bangkok and at the North Atlantic Council in Brussels. From 1981 to 1983, he was Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba and from 1986 to 1990 he served as Ambassador to the State of Israel. In 1990, he returned to Brussels to serve as Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the Canadian Joint Delegation to the North Atlantic Council. At headquarters in Ottawa, Mr. Bartleman has held numerous positions including Director General, Bureau of Intelligence Analysis and Security, and Director General, Economic Intelligence Bureau. Since 1994, he has been Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister and Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Foreign and Defence Policy, Privy Council Office. He is married to Marie Jeanne Bartleman and they have three children. Mr. Bartleman succeeds Arthur Perron.

Marc-André Brault (BA, Université Laval, 1963; LLL, Université Laval, 1966) joined the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1966 and has served abroad in Tel Aviv, Johannesburg, Paris and, from 1990 to 1993, as Minister (Economic Affairs) and Deputy Head of Mission in Washington. From 1988 to 1990, he served as Ambassador to Egypt and, from 1993 to 1995, he was Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa. In Ottawa, he has held a number of positions including Director General, Africa Bureau at the Department of External Affairs from 1983 to 1985; Assistant Deputy Minister, Africa and the Middle East Branch from 1985 to 1988; and, from 1995 to 1996, he was Assistant Deputy Minister, International Business Development and Chief Trade Commissioner. In 1996, he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia-Pacific and Africa. He is married to Danièle Lemieux and they have two children. Mr. Brault succeeds Allan Stewart.

Ferry de Kerckhove (B.Soc.Sc. [Economics], Ottawa University, 1968; MA [Political Science], Ottawa University, 1970; Doctoral studies in International Relations, Université Laval, 1971) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1973 and has served abroad in Teheran, at the Canadian Delegation to NATO in Brussels and, from 1992 to 1995, in Moscow where he served as Minister-Counsellor. In Ottawa, he has held positions in a number of divisions including the Western Europe Division, and the Political and Strategic Analysis Division. He was successively Director of the Economic and Trade Analysis Division and the Economic Relations with Developing Countries Division. In 1995, he was appointed Associate Chief Air Negotiator for Canada and, since 1996, Mr. de Kerckhove has been Director General, Planning Secretariat and Federal-Provincial Relations. He is married to Louise Coté and they have four children. Mr. de Kerckhove succeeds Marie-Andrée Beauchemin.

The Honourable Ronald A. Irwin, P.C., C.M., LL.B., Q.C. (Osgoode Hall Law School, 1962), Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from 1993 to 1997. Mr. Irwin was Mayor of Sault Ste. Marie from 1972 to 1974 during which period he was also a director of the Ontario Municipal Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. He was a member of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission between 1977 and 1980. From 1988 to 1991, he lectured on Government and Business Relations at Lake Superior State University in Michigan. Mr. Irwin was first elected to the House of Commons in the general election of 1980. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General and to Minister of State (Social Development) in 1980. In October 1981 he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the general election of 1993 he was elected again. Mr. Irwin was sworn to the Privy Council on November 4, 1993, and served as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development from November 1993 until June 1997. He is currently serving as personal advisor to the Prime Minister. Mr. Irwin is a Member of the Order of Canada. He is married to Mary Margaret Ann Frech and they have three children. Mr. Irwin succeeds Michael Phillips.

Claude Laverdure (BA, Collège André-Grasset, Montréal, 1961; BA [Political Science], Université de Montréal, 1964; MA [Political Science], Université de Montréal, 1965) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1965 and has served in Brussels, Paris, and Tunis. From 1986 to 1989, he was Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti and from 1989 to 1992 was Ambassador to the Republic of Zaire with concurrent accreditation to Rwanda, Burundi and the Congo. In Ottawa, he has held a number of positions including Federal Co-ordinator for la Francophonie; Director General of Personnel Operations; Assistant Deputy Minister, Africa and Middle East; and, most recently, Assistant Deputy Minister, Europe, Middle East and North Africa. He is, as well, the Prime

Minister's Personal Representative for la Francophonie. He is married to Suzanne Bisson and they have three children. Mr. Laverdure succeeds Jean-Paul Hubert.

Linda McDonald (BSc Honours [Mathematics], Queen's University, 1973) commenced her career in the Public Service in 1975 as an economist with the Treasury Board Secretariat. Ms. McDonald joined the Department of External Affairs and International Trade in 1981 as a member of the Development Assistance Stream, transferring to the Trade Commissioner Service in 1991. She served abroad previously in New Delhi with the Canadian International Development Agency as Counsellor (Development). Her most recent assignment is in Warsaw where she has been Counsellor (Commercial) since 1994. In 1991, she was named Deputy Director of the Africa and Middle East Trade Development Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade where she served until 1994. Ms. McDonald will be accompanied by her spouse, Assen Sefanov. She succeeds Anne Collins.

Jean-Michel Roy (BA, University of Montréal, 1965; MBA, University of Montréal, 1968) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1968 and has served abroad in Belgrade, London, Santiago, New York, and Brasilia. In 1994, he was appointed Counsellor (Commercial/Economic) at the Canadian High Commission in London. His most recent assignment at headquarters was as Director of the Export Controls Division from 1990 to 1994. He also served earlier in Personnel and as Executive Assistant to the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, (Operations) at the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Mr. Roy is married to Maria de Lourdes Da Silva and has one daughter, France-Isabelle. He succeeds Michael Spencer.

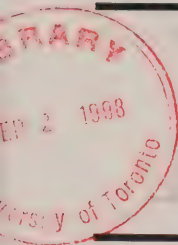
Kenneth Sunquist (BAdmin, University of Saskatchewan, 1970; MPA [Organization, Management], San Francisco, 1982; Banff School of Advanced Management, 1990) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1973. He has seen service abroad in Kingston, Belgrade, San Francisco, Seoul and, from 1994 to 1997, in Beijing where he was Minister (Commercial). His assignments at headquarters have included Director of the Export Information Division, Acting Director General of the Trade Communications Bureau, and Director of the Trade Development Liaison and Special Projects Division. From 1988 to 1990, he was Co-ordinator of the Trade Development Policy Secretariat. He was the 1996 recipient of the Minister's Award for Foreign Policy Excellence and received the 1997 Public Service Award of Excellence. Mr. Sunquist is married to Carolyn Sunquist and they have two sons. He succeeds Gary Smith.

John Tennant (BCom, McGill University, 1963) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1963. He has served most of his career in missions abroad, beginning with Melbourne and continuing on to Port of Spain, Guatemala, Lagos, and Tokyo. He served in Chicago and New York between 1981 and 1990. From 1990 to 1994, he was

Director General, Asia Pacific North Bureau. Since 1994, Mr. Tennant has been Minister (Economic/Commercial) in Tokyo. He is married to Barbara Campbell and they have two children. Mr. Tennant succeeds Donald Wismer.

Denis Thibault (LLL, University of Sherbrooke, 1972) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1974. He has served abroad in Madrid, San Juan, Atlanta, Tunis, Buenos Aires, Caracas and Mexico, where he is presently serving as Minister-Counsellor (Commercial/Economic). His assignments at headquarters in Ottawa have included the Africa Trade Development Division from 1984 to 1986 and as Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Trade Division from 1993 to 1995. Mr. Thibault is married to Isabel Rodriguez Alonso. He succeeds Dan Goodleaf.

Robert Vanderloo (BCom Honours, Carleton University, 1973) joined the Trade Commissioner Service in 1974 and has been posted abroad to Rio de Janeiro, Bonn, Jakarta, Bangkok and New Delhi where, from 1991 to 1994, he served as Counsellor (Commercial). At headquarters he has seen service in a variety of positions including the Trade Commissioner Service Personnel Division, the Central and Eastern European Division, and the Asia-Pacific Task Force, where he organized the Team Canada visit to South and Southeast Asia in 1995. In his most recent assignment, Mr. Vanderloo was Executive Director, APEC '97 Co-ordinating Office, responsible for the organization of the 5th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in November 1997. He is married to Luci Vanderloo and they have two children. Mr. Vanderloo succeeds Patricia Marsden-Dole.



News Release

August 5, 1998

No. 184

KILGOUR TO VISIT COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour announced today that he will visit Colombia and Ecuador from August 6 to 11 to attend presidential inaugurations in both countries and hold meetings with government officials.

"I am pleased to represent Canada in Colombia and Ecuador at these presidential inaugurations," said Kilgour. "These countries, indeed this entire region, are important to Canada and I am here to show our support for the democratic process that has led to the election of two new presidents."

In addition to attending the inauguration of President Andrés Pastrana in Bogotá, Colombia, on August 7, Kilgour will meet briefly with the new President and with the President of the Canada-Colombia Business Council.

Colombia is one of Canada's most dynamic commercial partners in the region. Two-way trade reached C\$772.6 million in 1997, while the Canadian private sector has invested over \$2.3 billion in Colombia.

In Quito, Ecuador, Kilgour will attend the inauguration of the new President, Dr. Jamil Mahuad, on August 10. He will also meet with a senior advisor of the United Nations Drug Control Program and the head of the Antinarcotics Unit of the National Police in Pichincha province. Kilgour plans to discuss Canada's investments in the petroleum sector with the new Minister of Energy.

Canada currently chairs the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Organization of American States Drug Abuse Control Commission. This group will measure the performance and progress in controlling illegal drugs in countries of the Americas.

Canada continues to develop its bilateral ties with Ecuador including strengthening our relationship on the political, economic, commercial and development co-operation levels. Two-way trade reached \$227.4 million in 1997.

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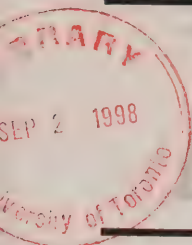


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News Release

August 7, 1998

No. 185

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS LATEST VIOLENCE IN KOSOVO AND CALLS FOR UNITED NATIONS ACTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the continuing bloodshed in Kosovo after the latest offensive by Serbian interior and Yugoslav forces.

"The cycle of violence in Kosovo is a threat to international peace and security. The growing humanitarian tragedy in which hundreds of civilians have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been displaced, must be stopped," said Minister Axworthy.

Canada is approaching the 15 members of the United Nations Security Council to urge them to address immediately the security and humanitarian dimension of the Kosovo crisis.

"It is incumbent on the United Nations Security Council to become fully engaged on the Kosovo issue. It must demonstrate the will to act, otherwise, the Kosovo crisis could spiral out of control," said Mr. Axworthy. In this regard, the Minister called on the Contact Group countries to set aside their differences. The same message was conveyed to the 16-member NATO Council meeting in Brussels today.

Canada was one of the first countries to respond to appeals for humanitarian assistance in Kosovo. In light of the worsening human tragedy in this troubled area of the world, Canada is presently working with international organizations on further measures to address the crisis. Additional Canadian assistance is expected to be announced in the next few days.

Axworthy reiterated his call for all parties in the conflict to put down their arms and negotiate a peaceful settlement that would provide increased autonomy for Kosovo within the territorial boundaries of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). He noted that the FRY government bears particular responsibility for finding a peaceful solution and must be held accountable for the excessive and indiscriminate use of force against its own civilian population.



In July, Canada imposed a number of sanctions on the FRY government. Economic measures included a ban on new investments in the Republic of Serbia and a freeze of the funds and financial resources of the FRY and Serbian governments in Canada. Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1160, Canada also adopted amendments to its UN Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Regulations to prohibit the export, sale, supply or shipment of arms or related materiel to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

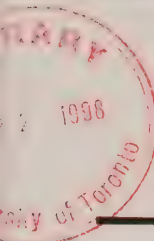
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News Release

August 8, 1998

No. 186

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS BURMA ON 10th ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY CRACKDOWN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy voiced his concern today over the deteriorating situation in Burma on the 10th anniversary of the military crackdown.

"Ten years after the brutal attack on peaceful demonstrators in Rangoon, there has been no progress on democratic reform," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada calls on the Burmese military regime to engage in an open and serious dialogue with democracy leaders to bring about change in Burma."

Recent events in Burma, including the harsh treatment of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, have prompted international condemnation and a call to action. Aung San Suu Kyi is the leader of the National League for Democracy party, which won the 1990 election.

"The basic human rights of the Burmese people have been gravely abused by the military regime," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. "Canada condemns the systematic violations of the human rights of the Burmese people, including the freedoms of association and expression."

Canada has repeatedly condemned Burma's unacceptable record of human rights violations and the military regime's refusal to abide by the results of the democratic election in 1990. Canadian bilateral aid to Burma was suspended in 1988, following the army's massacre of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators in Rangoon.

In August 1997, Canada removed Burma's eligibility under the General Preferential Tariff and placed it on the Area Controls List, which requires all exports from Canada to Burma to have an export permit.

At the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum this past July, Minister Axworthy and six other Foreign Ministers raised their concerns regarding human rights violations



and democratic reforms with the Burmese Foreign Minister. Minister Axworthy said that Canada, in consultation with its ASEAN partners, will continue to press for reform in Burma.

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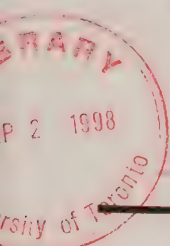
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News Release

August 8, 1998

No. 187

CANADA CALLS ON THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF NEVIS TO CONSIDER OTHER OPTIONS

The Government of Canada today called on the citizens of the Caribbean island of Nevis to consider carefully the consequences of their decision when they vote next week on whether to secede from their federation with St. Kitts. The Nevis Administration is preparing to hold a public referendum on August 10, the ultimate result of which could be the secession of Nevis from the two-island federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, if the threshold of at least two thirds of all valid votes is met, as required by the constitution of St. Kitts and Nevis.

"As a friend of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Canada has been closely watching developments in the Caribbean state of St. Kitts and Nevis," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Canada firmly believes that in this age of global integration, strength in all regions of the world is born of unity and closer co-operation, not division and fragmentation."

Closely identifying with the recent statements by the CARICOM and the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada supports initiatives by the populations and governments of St. Kitts and Nevis to resolve political differences through democratic processes based on the rule of law, and strongly encourages ongoing efforts to find legal alternatives to secession by Nevis.

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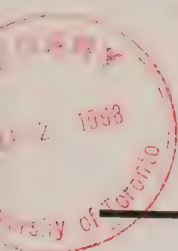
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News Release

August 10, 1998

No. 188

KILGOUR TO VISIT BARBADOS AND ST. LUCIA

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour announced today that he will visit Barbados and St. Lucia on August 12 and 13.

"I look forward to productive meetings in both Barbados and St. Lucia, where discussions on a number of important issues, including drug enforcement, regional development and trade relations are planned," said Kilgour.

In Barbados, Kilgour will address the 12th Annual Conference on Drugs, Criminal Justice and Social Policy organized by the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law. He will also meet Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Billie Miller to discuss human rights and other issues.

In St. Lucia, Secretary of State Kilgour will meet Prime Minister Kenny Anthony, the new Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Minister of Foreign Affairs George Odlum. He will also meet senior officials of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and a representative of the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC) to discuss customs reform and the fight against illegal drugs.

While in St. Lucia, Kilgour will sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Canadian International Development Agency's Human Resources Development Program for Economic Competitiveness. This Caribbean regional program is designed to strengthen the capacity of the region to compete in the global economy. It is valued at \$25 million, of which \$9.7 million is earmarked for OECS member states, including St. Lucia.

- 30 -



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News Release

August 14, 1998

No. 189

CANADA VOICES CONCERNS OVER KOSOVO TO YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR

Canada today called in to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's (FRY) Ambassador to reiterate Canada's deep concerns over the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Kosovo.

The ambassador was told that Canada intends to use all means available to hold Yugoslav authorities accountable for their actions in Kosovo and that Canada hoped for co-operation from the FRY government in peace talks with the newly named Kosovar negotiating team.

Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Kosovar Albanians, named a five-member team yesterday to reopen negotiations with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and the FRY government. Talks between the two sides broke down in May.

"I am hopeful that the naming of this team will begin a new phase in relations between the Kosovars and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "The responsibility for progress now lies with President Milosevic. We expect his government to negotiate in good faith, with a view to reaching a solution acceptable to all sides."

Mr. Axworthy condemned the continued use of anti-personnel mines by the Yugoslav security forces along the borders with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the FRY government's refusal to co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on allegations of war crimes in Kosovo.

"I remain deeply concerned with the deterioration of the situation in Kosovo, including the use of anti-personnel mines, the burning of villages and ongoing human rights abuses by the Yugoslav security forces," Mr. Axworthy said.



The Canadian Ambassador in Yugoslavia conveyed a similar message to the FRY authorities in Belgrade.

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News Release

August 14, 1998

No. 190

CANADA CONCERNED ABOUT INSTABILITY IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the continuing inter-ethnic conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the worsening atmosphere of exclusion and discrimination. He also voiced his concerns regarding the renewed instability in the Congo and the African Great Lakes region.

"Canada welcomes and supports the efforts of the region's leaders to ensure the territorial integrity of the Congo and regrets that their call for a cessation of hostilities made at the Victoria Falls meeting has fallen on deaf ears," said Minister Axworthy.

Mr. Axworthy also noted that national reconciliation, at every level and in every region, must remain the primary objective in the country. He called on all the parties to the conflict to resume discussions as soon as possible to implement the required constitutional reforms and to lay the groundwork for democratic public consultations to legitimize the authorities.

"Canada remains deeply concerned by statements that are exacerbating the violence and ethnic discrimination," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada encourages all the parties to the conflict, from the Congo authorities to the leaders of the rebellion and neighbouring countries, to ensure that the human rights of every individual in the Congo are respected, to cease enlisting children as soldiers, and to exhibit justice and restraint in order to restore calm."

Since last week, Canada has advised its citizens in the Congo to contact the Embassy and leave the country as soon as possible. Some Canadians have already taken flights or convoys to leave Kinshasa and the Kivu region, where fighting has occurred. Some 500 Canadians who are registered with the Embassy remain in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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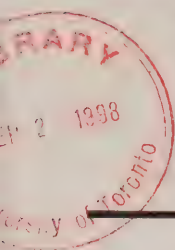


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1 August 17, 1998

No. 191

AXWORTHY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING ON MILITARY SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will address the International NGO Consultations on Small Arms Action, to take place August 17-19, 1998, in Orillia, Ontario.

At the Orillia meeting, Canadian and international NGOs will discuss opportunities for co-operative and co-ordinated action in support of the control of military small arms and light weapons. Minister Axworthy will suggest ways in which Canada and other countries can best contribute to this process. He will also discuss Canada's recent proposal that consideration be given to a global convention that would place tighter restrictions on the legal trade and export of military small arms and light weapons.

"Canada is very concerned about the proliferation and transfer of military small arms and light weapons," said Mr. Axworthy. "These deadly instruments have a dramatic impact on international peace and security and cause considerable human suffering in many parts of the world. Canada has been actively examining options to address this complex and multifaceted problem, and this meeting offers an opportunity to share ideas with the NGO community, benefit from their experience and listen to their concerns."

Canada maintains that weapons designed and manufactured to military specifications, such as automatic assault rifles, machine guns, grenades and rocket launchers, should be restricted to military and police organizations only. As well, Canada continues to stress the need for progress in combatting the illegal trafficking and smuggling of military small arms and light weapons. These efforts are intended to proceed in parallel with others aimed at disarmament and peacebuilding in post-conflict situations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is contributing up to \$60 000 to the Canadian Peacebuilding Co-ordinating Committee and its newly created Small Arms Working



Group to organize and host the Orillia meeting. Funding for this program initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

CANADA'S PROPOSAL FOR CONTROLLING THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy raised the issue of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1997, noting that resolving this issue is essential to building and protecting international peace and security and human rights and democracy. Since that time, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has been exploring how Canada, other governments and the global NGO community might address the situation.

At the invitation of the Norwegian foreign ministry, a group of 21 like-minded countries met in Oslo, Norway, on July 13 to 14, 1998, to take stock of international interest and initiatives to control small arms and light weapons and to reach a common understanding on government action to address the issue. The participating countries were Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe.

At the Oslo meeting, Canada proposed that consideration be given to a global convention that would prohibit the international transfer of military small arms and light weapons to "non-state actors" (i.e. any person or organization other than legitimate military and police authorities).

The Canadian proposal is not directed at firearms that are permitted for legitimate use by civilians and does not affect the Firearms Act (Bill C-68) governing civilian ownership of guns in Canada. It addresses military small arms such as automatic assault rifles, machine guns, grenades and rocket launchers. These weapons are designed and manufactured to military specifications and are legitimately required by military and security organizations for defence and police purposes. All too often, however, these weapons end up in the hands of terrorists, criminals and guerillas who use them to kill, maim and terrorize, as well as to destabilize regions and inhibit the peaceful reconstruction of countries and communities emerging from conflict. In Canada, civilians have long been prohibited from possessing automatic weapons.

Canada believes that the following arms and weapons-related challenges must also be addressed:

- the need for better enforcement of existing laws and procedures governing the export and import of military weapons by or on behalf of governments;
- the need for progress in combatting illegal trafficking and smuggling of small arms and light weapons; and
- the continuing need to help countries and regions cope with both the past accumulation and new inflow of these weapons.

Canada, in co-operation with other countries and the NGO community, will attend the International Conference on Sustainable Disarmament and Sustainable Development, which will take place in Brussels, October 11 to 12, 1998, to build on the current international momentum to address the proliferation of these weapons.



News Release

A 1 August 18, 1998

No. 192

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CANADA URGES BRITAIN TO WEIGH ASBESTOS FACTS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale today urged British health authorities to weigh objectively the evidence favouring safe use of chrysotile asbestos in industrial products.

The Ministers were responding to the decision by the British government to initiate public consultations following completion of a British health department report comparing health risks of asbestos with substitute materials.

"We are not opposed to better clarifying how the mineral can be safely used, thereby providing greater market certainty," said Mr. Marchi. "But we are concerned that these consultations may lead to unnecessarily restrictive measures that would reduce access of Canadian asbestos to British or other European markets. We will ensure that Canadian views are heard clearly as the process unfolds."

The Ministers said that Canada's views concerning chrysotile asbestos have been conveyed to the British government and will be further elaborated during the consultations.

"We would welcome an objective review of the facts," said Mr. Goodale. "The scientific evidence clearly indicates that chrysotile asbestos can be used safely, under controlled conditions, and brings valuable benefits to society."

Prime Minister Chrétien has written to Prime Minister Tony Blair welcoming a full exchange of scientific information between governments.

The U.K. consultations were requested by the British Health and Safety Commission, based on their view that recent scientific findings suggest there are fewer health risks associated with substitute products. To date, neither the European Union nor Canada has concluded that substitute fibres are any safer than chrysotile asbestos.



Canada advocates the safe-use principle for the management of minerals and metals at each stage of their life cycle. This risk-based management approach involves the use of regulations to control and minimize potential risks to human health or the environment.

The Government of Canada has worked closely in partnership with the asbestos mining industry, unions, communities and the Government of Quebec and will continue to do so. Most of the \$224 million Canadian asbestos mining industry is located in Quebec.

-30-

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News Release

1 August 19, 1998

No. 193

AXWORTHY TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND DISCUSS NORTH AMERICAN CO-OPERATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will travel to Denver, Colorado, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, on August 20 and 21.

On August 20, Minister Axworthy will participate in an informal roundtable with members of the Denver Council on Foreign Relations to discuss a broad range of international issues. He will also meet with political leaders and members of the Colorado business community.

The next day in Santa Fe, Minister Axworthy will join the 10th anniversary meeting of the North American Institute (NAMI) to discuss broad middle and long-term issues in the relationship between Mexico, the United States and Canada, and to launch the Alliance for Higher Education and Enterprise in North America.

"The North American Institute is working to develop a sense of North American community by providing a forum where we can discuss and address common issues as North Americans," said Mr. Axworthy.

This year's NAMI forum includes a program of discussions on communications, transportation, environment, education and training, and health and welfare.

The North American Institute is an organization dedicated to exploring pressing economic and social issues facing Mexico, the United States and Canada, and to forging educational and cultural contacts throughout the North American continent.

A trilateral meeting between Minister Axworthy and his North American counterparts originally scheduled in Santa Fe for August 21 and 22 has been postponed. Canada places great importance on these discussions with Mexico and the United States and looks forward to participating in them in the near future.

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of Canada

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du Canada

Canada

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1
2 1998
City of Toronto

August 19, 1998

No. 194

CHAN TO ATTEND SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM AND LEAD TRADE DELEGATION TO CHINA

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan announced today that he will attend the annual South Pacific Forum in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on August 27 and 28. Mr. Chan will then lead a business delegation to China from August 30 to September 9.

"This is an excellent opportunity for Canada to further strengthen our ties and demonstrate our commitment to the Pacific region," Mr. Chan said. "The Forum provides an opportunity to engage our Pacific neighbours on economic and environmental issues and to discuss early ratification of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention."

The South Pacific Forum is a gathering of the heads of government of 16 independent and self-governing states. Its objective is to foster and promote Pacific regional co-operation, particularly on economic, development and trade matters.

Following the Forum, Mr. Chan will lead delegates from 34 Canadian businesses on a trade mission to China. The mission, whose stops will include Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Guangzhou and Xiamen, will foster commercial ties between Chinese and Canadian entrepreneurs.

In Xiamen the business delegates will be participating in the Xiamen International Trade and Investment Fair. While in Chongqing, Mr. Chan will open the new Canadian consulate.

Mr. Chan will discuss political trade and economic matters as well as good governance and the rule of law during his visit.

"This visit will stress the importance of establishing connections with the developing regional markets within China," Mr. Chan said. "China is more than just Beijing or Shanghai. Emerging sectors in these regional markets are uniquely suited for Canadian businesses, such as those in the areas of communications or infrastructure development."

A list of the business delegates accompanying Mr. Chan and two backgrounders are attached.

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**Visit to China of the Honourable Raymond Chan,
Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), August 30 to September 9, 1998
Business Delegation**

Asicana Consultancy Co. Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia

Canada China Power Inc., Beijing, China
(Team Canada company based in Beijing, established by three
Canadian engineering firms: AGRA Monenco, SNC-Lavalin and Acres
International)

Canada-China Investment Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia

CRRS Culture Regeneration Research Society, Burnaby, British
Columbia

Eicon Technology Shanghai Office, Pudong, Shanghai, China
(Head Office, Montréal, Quebec)

Etac Fashion (Xiamen) Ltd.
(Head Office, Toronto, Ontario)

Hillary Enterprises Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia

Howlund International Corp., Edmonton, Alberta

Mape Enterprises Ltd., Richmond, British Columbia

Nortel (China) Ltd., Beijing, China
(Head Office, Toronto, Ontario)

Overseas Product Promotion, Toronto, Ontario

Ulferts Furniture, Richmond, British Columbia

Kryton International Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia

Michael H.K. Wong Architects Inc., Toronto, Ontario

Agra Construction (Wuhan, China) Ltd., Beijing, China
(Head Office, Oakville, Ontario)

Bank of Montreal, Toronto, Ontario

Pan Pacific Commercial Law Offices, Vancouver, British Columbia

Newbridge Networks Corporation, Kanata, Ontario

Bank of Nova Scotia, Hong Kong, China
(Head Office, Toronto, Ontario)

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Toronto, Ontario

Global-Net Enterprises Ltd., British Columbia
Remedios & Company, Vancouver, British Columbia
Harris Canada, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec
West Fraser Mills Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia
P. Man Group, Vancouver, British Columbia .
Canadian Homes International Inc., Chilliwack, British Columbia
GE Canada International Inc., Lachine, Quebec
Silkway Travel, Vancouver, British Columbia
Atlin Global Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia
Beijing Toronto International Hospital, Toronto, Ontario
CanCap Pharmaceutical Ltd., British Columbia
Rick Hansen Enterprises, Vancouver, British Columbia
Bridge Trust and Investment Group (U.S.A.-Canada-China),
Vancouver, British Columbia
Interport Development Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia

Backgrounder

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

The South Pacific Forum is an annual gathering of the heads of government of 16 independent and self-governing states: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Its objective is to foster and promote Pacific regional co-operation, particularly on economic, development and trade matters.

Canada is a post-dialogue partner and has been invited to attend meetings following the official Forum. Other partner members include the European Union, France, Japan, Malaysia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Mr. Chan represented Canada at the 1997 Forum in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, and at the 1994 Forum in Australia.

Backgrounder

CHINA AND CANADA

Since 1978, Canada-China relations have dramatically improved in several areas. Canada has pursued a policy of multiple linkages with China, combining various elements: trade and economic partnership, peace and security, sustainable development, human rights, good government and the rule of law.

The importance of the relationship between the two countries has been bolstered by several prominent meetings. Since 1994, there has been at least one high-level visit annually in either direction, as well as many visits by ministers and provincial premiers (Canada) and governors (China). Visits include Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Team Canada mission in 1994 and President Jiang Zemin's state visit to Canada in 1997.

China's economy has more than quadrupled since 1978, while Canada-China trade has more than doubled since 1991.

In 1997, with the repatriation of Hong Kong, China became Canada's third-largest trading partner. Bilateral trade with China for the same year was approximately \$8.5 billion.

Canada ranks as the 16th-largest import source and 15th-largest export market for China.

News Release

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August 19, 1998

No. 195

CANADA TO SUPPORT PROJECTS IN EL SALVADOR TO CURB SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, Diane Marleau, today announced that Canada will contribute \$130 000 to support a "Goods for Guns" program in El Salvador. The project sets out to tackle the problem of the proliferation of small arms, as well as to contribute to building an enduring peace in this post-conflict country. Funded through the Peacebuilding Fund, the program is designed to offer viable alternatives to former combatants by supporting an exchange of weapons for coupons redeemable for consumer goods.

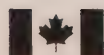
Mr. Axworthy made the announcement in Orillia, Ontario, where he was participating in an international meeting of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the proliferation of small arms.

"The most pressing need is humanitarian action to help societies that are emerging from conflict and are awash with small arms," said Mr. Axworthy. "There is no single solution. Instead, the issue needs to be tackled by concurrently taking global, regional and national approaches. We must consider action to stop the accumulation of these weapons, which contribute to regional instability and domestic conflicts while also causing considerable human suffering."

"Peace is a prerequisite to development," said Madame Marleau. "Restoring a secure climate will allow people to carry on with their lives and contribute to the development of their society."

This initiative is the result of a joint coalition of Salvadoran business people and members of the Rotary Club of El Salvador and Rotary International who joined forces to fight the rise of armed crime in El Salvador over the past years.

One of the greatest peacebuilding challenges in postwar societies is disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former soldiers into society. The project, the first Peacebuilding Fund effort in El



Salvador, calls for the collection of small arms over two separate days. The target is 550 weapons including rifles, machine guns, grenades, landmines and dynamite. The owners who turn them in will receive coupons based on the value of the weapons, predetermined according to the type of arms involved. These coupons can then be used to purchase consumer goods such as food, medicine and clothing. In 1996-1997, Canada contributed through a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-funded social Reconstruction Program in El Salvador to a highly successful one-time arms collection exercise.

As part of regular programming, CIDA supports many activities designed to promote peace and in 1997-1998 allocated close to \$43 million for such projects.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

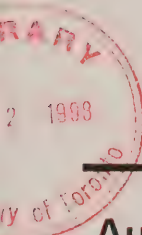
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August 20, 1998

No. 196

CANADA TO CHAIR NEGOTIATIONS ON A TREATY TO BAN THE PRODUCTION OF FISSILE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed today the appointment of Ambassador Mark Moher, Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Disarmament, as Chairman of the negotiating committee. On August 11, 60 countries at the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament agreed to begin negotiations on an international treaty, also known as a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT).

"Canada has been a long-standing advocate of a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices," said Minister Axworthy. "We have an urgent, complex and demanding task before us. I am confident that Ambassador Moher's expertise will contribute to helping the committee lay down the vital foundation on which we can build this treaty."

The Minister reaffirmed Canada's strong commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). "A treaty to ban fissile material production is an important instrument in strengthening the international non-proliferation regime," said Mr. Axworthy. "Its successful negotiation and implementation, however, would not replace the commitments to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament that stem from the NPT."

Ambassador Moher was named Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations for Disarmament in 1995. His extensive experience in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament includes assignments in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as Director General of the International Security Policy and Arms Control Bureau, and Director of the Nuclear Division.

The Conference on Disarmament, of which Canada was a founding member, was established in 1979 to succeed previous bodies as the global multilateral forum for consideration and negotiation of



arms control and disarmament issues. It has successfully negotiated a number of international agreements, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) and, most recently, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

- 30 -

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News Release

August 21, 1998

No. 197

CANADA SENDS OBSERVER TEAM TO KOSOVO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and National Defence Minister Art Eggleton today announced that Canada has sent a two-person team to monitor and observe the volatile situation in Kosovo.

Major John Sheahan and Foreign Service Officer Gavin Buchan arrived in the area this week to be part of the international Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission, which includes representatives from the European Union, Russia and the United States. They will be working directly with the Canadian Ambassador in Belgrade for an indefinite period, and providing regular reports on activities in the area.

"Given the volatility in the region, it is vital that Canada have a means of collecting firsthand information on what is occurring," said Minister Eggleton. "The team's mission is yet another way that Canada is helping to make a difference."

"We hope that the Canadian team's arrival will demonstrate the importance that Canada accords to ending the cycle of violence in the region, and that the presence of these international observers will encourage the belligerent factions in Kosovo to show some restraint," said Minister Axworthy. "The plight of refugees and ongoing human rights abuses in Kosovo highlight the fact that we must remain vigilant in order to resolve this situation."

Mr. Axworthy added that President Milosevic must understand that only dialogue and respect for human rights will lead to an end to the armed rebellion. Inflexibility and the refusal by the government of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia to conduct talks will only lead to further radicalization among the Kosovars.

Canada's direct involvement in the former Yugoslavia dates back to 1991. Since that time, more than 20 000 Canadians have served in Croatia and Bosnia with the UN and NATO. There are currently close to 1 250 Canadian Forces members participating in Bosnia with NATO's Stabilization Force. In addition, Canada has 130



personnel and six CF-18 fighter aircraft based in Aviano, Italy. Thirty Canadian police officers serve in the UN International Police Task Force. Canada has been participating in overflights of Bosnia to enforce the NATO no-fly zone, and is currently involved in a joint military exercise in Albania with 14 other countries as part of NATO's Partners for Peace initiative.

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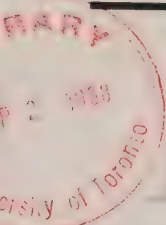
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News Release

August 21, 1998

No. 198

CANADA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR ALLIANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND ENTERPRISE IN NORTH AMERICA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Canada will contribute C\$200 000 to the funding of the Alliance for Higher Education and Enterprise in North America. This business/education initiative will bring together leading North American thinkers from both the private and public sectors for the first time.

Minister Axworthy made the announcement in Santa Fe, New Mexico, during his visit to the 10th annual conference of the North American Institute (NAMI).

"The Alliance is a unique way to enhance understanding between Canadians, Mexicans and Americans, contributing to greater prosperity in the three countries," said Mr. Axworthy. "It will increase the quantity and quality of strategic alliances between business and higher education – an important element in building solid, lasting relationships."

During his Santa Fe visit, Minister Axworthy addressed NAMI members, and took part in broader discussions on issues concerning education, the economy, the environment and social policy in North America.

The North American Institute, which this week launched the Alliance, is a non-governmental organization dedicated to fostering broader North American interests, examining pressing economic and social issues facing Mexico, the United States and Canada, and forging educational and cultural contacts throughout the continent.

- 30 -



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News Release

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August 24, 1998

No. 199

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES CANADA'S RESPONSE TO CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN NIGERIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Canada will support the constructive movement towards democracy in Nigeria.

"The statements and initial measures undertaken by General Abubakar over the past two months have given hope to friends of Nigeria that the country is setting a course for meaningful democratic reform," said Mr. Axworthy. "At this stage, we cannot be certain of the outcome given the country's recent history, but we want to give the Government of Nigeria every chance to achieve its stated objectives."

Minister Axworthy met today in Ottawa with Nigerian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ibrahim Gambari, to discuss recent developments in his country and to inform him of Canada's decision to implement the following bilateral activities:

- the re-establishment of a Canadian diplomatic presence in Nigeria;
- financial and technical aid in support of Nigeria's transition to democracy;
- sponsorship of a forum for pan-Commonwealth non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and
- a visit to Nigeria by Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour.

A Canadian diplomat will be posted to Nigeria, the first Canadian official to serve in that country following the closing of the Canadian High Commission in March 1997. This presence will facilitate Canada's direct contact with government and non-government representatives in the country. The Canadian High Commission will not be reopened at this time.

Although Canada has provided no direct development assistance to Nigeria since 1995, support has been given to the Nigerian democratic movement. This support will continue, and Canada is



also now prepared to provide direct assistance in implementing Nigeria's transition program.

"Over the last several weeks, I have consulted with a number of my Commonwealth colleagues and representatives of the Nigerian democracy movement," said Mr. Axworthy. "I have concluded that the participation and support of the international community in the transition process is essential to its success and to establishing its credibility."

Canada will sponsor a pan-Commonwealth NGO forum to take place this fall in Harare, Zimbabwe. The forum is designed to encourage the people of the Commonwealth to augment the work of states in promoting the Commonwealth principles of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Mr. Axworthy has asked Secretary of State Kilgour to visit Nigeria in September to continue the direct dialogue with the present government and report on the situation in the country. Mr. Kilgour will consult a broad cross-section of Nigerian society to obtain a variety of viewpoints on recent developments and to explore ways in which Canada might encourage and support the transition process.

Minister Axworthy will also urge the Commonwealth Secretary-General to begin developing the criteria and information necessary for the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group to assess Nigeria's democratic progress over the transition period.

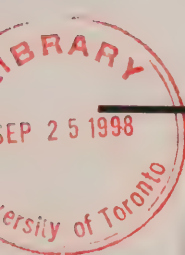
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News Release

August 25, 1998

No. 200

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MINISTERS ANNOUNCE CREATION OF CENTRE FOR MINE-ACTION TECHNOLOGIES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, National Defence Minister Art Eggleton and Industry Minister John Manley today announced that Canada is continuing its leadership role in the global movement to eliminate anti-personnel (AP) mines with the creation of a Centre for Mine-Action Technologies at the Defence Research Establishment in Suffield, Alberta.

The Centre will be established through a commitment of \$17 million over five years from Canada's \$100 million Landmines Fund announced last December at the international signing conference for the Ottawa Convention.

The sum of \$17 million will be invested in technology research to make humanitarian mine-clearance faster, safer and more effective, and to investigate alternatives to anti-personnel mines. Potential projects may include the development of AP mine neutralization equipment and protective equipment for demining personnel and vehicles, as well as work on a range of victim assistance technologies. The Centre will also provide a means for the exchange of research within an international network of scientists in other countermine laboratories.

"This Centre represents a partnership between defence and industry that recalls the spirit of partnership established during the Ottawa Process," said Mr. Axworthy. "That spirit is alive and well, not only in the Ottawa Convention but also in our comprehensive framework for action. The Centre will allow us to greatly enhance our contribution to demining and victim assistance as part of that framework."

To help ensure that Canadian research and development responds to the needs of those affected by anti-personnel mines, the Centre will be guided by multidisciplinary Executive and Management Committees. Representatives from the non-governmental organization, Mines Action Canada, have been invited to sit on both Committees.

"The Canadian Forces' experience in demining has shown that appropriate technology and techniques are vital for mine-clearance projects to work as safely and effectively as they should," said Minister Eggleton.



"Additionally, alternatives are crucial if non-signatory countries are to be persuaded to sign the treaty banning anti-personnel mines. The Centre will conduct research and gather information to show that viable and more humane alternatives, which do not target civilians, can be developed as a way to persuade hold-out countries to sign the Convention."

The Canadian Forces have been conducting military and humanitarian mine clearance for many years in diverse peacekeeping operations including those in Cyprus, Kuwait, Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda and Cambodia. They have also provided demining training for refugees from Afghanistan.

Their experience has shown that every mine clearance project has different requirements, depending on local conditions. The research and development work of the Centre will help ensure that appropriate technologies are available to meet the broad range of conditions and circumstances faced in mine clearance.

"The Centre will serve as a showcase and a clearing house for Canadian expertise," said Minister Manley. "Its research, development, commercialization and marketing of Canadian industry will help remove anti-personnel mines faster and more effectively."

- 30 -

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CAI
EA
-C55

News Release

August 25, 1998

No. 201

AXWORTHY WELCOMES PROPOSAL TO TRY LIBYAN SUSPECTS IN THE EXPLOSION OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the proposal made by Great Britain and the United States to try the two Libyan suspects in the 1989 explosion of Pan Am flight 103 in a third-party country, the Netherlands, using a Scottish court and in accordance with Scottish law.

"I urge Libya to accept this proposal, which conforms to the spirit of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council," said Minister Axworthy. "If the proposal is accepted by the Libyan authorities, justice would be served for the victims of this terrorist act and their families.

Acceptance by Libya would clear the way for a possible lifting of the international sanctions against Libya and could mark the final chapter in the controversy that has raged for nearly 10 years, surrounding the explosion of Pan Am flight 103.

- 30 -

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News Release

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August 25, 1998

ERRATUM

In the English version of news release number 197, dated August 21, 1998, **CANADA SENDS OBSERVER TEAM TO KOSOVO**, the following section should have read as:

Mr. Axworthy added that President Milosevic must understand that only dialogue and respect for human rights will lead to an end to the armed rebellion. Inflexibility and the refusal by the government of the **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia** to conduct talks will only lead to further radicalization among the Kosovars.



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News Release

September 1, 1998

No. 202

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTION TO MINES ACTION CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced a contribution of \$300 000 to the non-governmental organization (NGO), Mines Action Canada, to help sustain its work and activities in the campaign to ban anti-personnel mines.

"We are within reach of the 40 ratifications necessary to bring the Ottawa Convention into legal force. The intensive diplomatic lobbying for this Convention would have meant little without the tireless efforts of our partners in the NGO community," said Mr. Axworthy. "Mines Action Canada has been a leader in this coalition and I am pleased to support their active role in the ongoing work needed to eliminate these deadly weapons."

The contribution will be sourced from the \$100 million Canadian Landmines Fund announced last December at the international signing conference of the Ottawa Convention.

Mines Action Canada will use the funding to concentrate on four specific areas of activity:

- to participate in and support activities related to the ratification, universal adherence and full implementation of the Ottawa Convention;
- to work in co-operation with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the global Mine Monitor initiative to develop NGO capacities for monitoring the implementation of the Convention;
- to work in partnership with new and emerging civil-society organizations, especially in Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe, to support ratification, universal adherence and full implementation of the Convention; and



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- to work in co-operation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to develop and implement a comprehensive mine action outreach and sustainability program in Canada, including public education, for supporting the delivery of mine action programs in mine-affected countries.

- 30 -

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News Release

September 3, 1998

No. 203

CHAN OPENS NEW CANADIAN CONSULATE IN CHONGQING, CHINA

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today officially opened the Canadian Consulate in Chongqing, China. At a ceremony attended by Chinese governmental and local officials, Mr. Chan reaffirmed Canada's commitment to deepening relations with China's interior.

"It is especially gratifying for me to be here today to celebrate the opening of Canada's first consulate in China's heartland," said Mr. Chan. "We recognize the special emphasis China's leadership places on the development of Chongqing and its surrounding regions, and we wish to be partners with you in achieving this."

Chongqing is situated on the upper Yangtze River and is home to approximately 30 million people.

Historically, Canada has had strong ties to the Chongqing area. Canada's first embassy in China was in Chongqing when it served as the capital during World War II, and, since 1986, Chongqing has been the official sister city of Toronto.

The Consulate in Chongqing is Canada's fifth mission in China; the others are in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

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News Release

September 4, 1998

No. 204

AXWORTHY TO VISIT CHICAGO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will visit Chicago on September 8 and 9, 1998, to address the Mid-America Committee and meet with senior business and political representatives of the region to discuss Canadian foreign policy.

Mr. Axworthy will attend the opening of *Landmines*, an exhibition by Canadian photographer Robert Semeniuk. He will also meet with Physicians Against Landmines, take part in the board meeting of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and inaugurate a Canada-U.S. Internet Treaties Project involving the Library of International Relations at the Chicago-Kent College of Law and the University of Montreal.

"Canada and the United States share interests in a whole range of global and hemispheric issues," said Minister Axworthy. "Our countries are co-operating and developing new tools, new ideas and new institutions to meet the challenges of our changing world."

During his visit, Minister Axworthy will address humanitarian concerns such as landmines, small arms, child soldiers and the International Criminal Court. Mr. Axworthy will also focus on new approaches to foreign policy making that embrace the concepts of human security and the North American community.

- 30 -



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News Release

September 4, 1998

No. 205

AXWORTHY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER WORSENING HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed concern over the worsening situation in Afghanistan, and particularly recent reports of mass killings of civilians by Taliban militia in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

"Canada condemns such gross violations of fundamental human rights," said Mr Axworthy. "The Afghan crisis must be resolved through peaceful means."

Canada supports the work of the United Nations Special Envoy, and endorses Security Council Resolution 1193, which calls for an immediate end to fighting and for resumed direct negotiations among Afghan factions. Canada calls on all parties, including neighbouring states, to refrain from actions which could exacerbate the situation in Afghanistan.

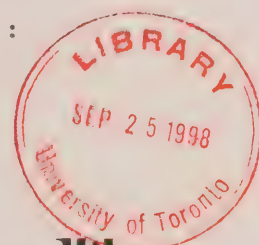
The Minister also expressed his concern for the safety of foreigners in the country, and in particular the staff at the Iranian consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif, who have been missing since the Taliban captured the city on August 8, and whose well-being remains uncertain.

The Minister remains preoccupied by the serious humanitarian crisis in all parts of Afghanistan and the systemic discrimination against women. He encouraged efforts to facilitate the work of NGOs and international organizations in providing humanitarian relief to all Afghans in need.

- 30 -

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News Release

September 8, 1998

No. 206

**MARCHI TO VISIT HALIFAX AND BOSTON
ON ATLANTIC CANADA TRADE PROMOTION TRIP**

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will visit Halifax and Boston on September 9 and 10 to meet with prominent business and investment leaders on both sides of the Atlantic border.

"It's a great time for Canadians to be exporting to the United States," said Mr. Marchi. "There are many opportunities for Atlantic businesses in the United States, and I see superb potential to build on what is already a successful relationship between Atlantic Canada and New England."

Minister Marchi will speak at a luncheon meeting of the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters and the Greater Halifax Partnership. Mr. Marchi's visit to Halifax also features a round-table meeting with business leaders from the Atlantic region - many of them winners of Canada and Nova Scotia Export Awards and participants on Team Canada trade missions.

In Boston, Minister Marchi will participate in an investment breakfast with representatives of Massachusetts companies with business interests in Canada. He will speak about business partnerships at a luncheon sponsored by the New England-Canada Business Council, and give the Mackenzie King Lecture at the Harvard Center for International Affairs. Mr. Marchi will also meet with state trade officials and Canadian businesses situated in the Boston area.

"Companies in Atlantic Canada have a great deal to offer the United States," said Minister Marchi. "I plan to remind our New England friends of the great opportunities that exist to buy Canadian products and invest in Canada," he added.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN ATLANTIC CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND

In 1989, the Canada-U.S Free Trade Agreement (FTA) went into effect, phasing out nearly all tariffs and many non-tariff barriers to trade. Beginning in 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) opened the Mexican market to Canada and the United States. Two-way merchandise trade between Canada and the United States was \$378.5 billion in 1997, representing the largest bilateral exchange in the world.

Trade between New England and Canada

Canada is New England's major trading partner, exporting \$16.5 billion worth of Canadian goods (not counting services) to the region in 1997. The Canadian export outlook to the New England states is very positive, partly due to a favourable exchange rate and to the FTA and NAFTA.

New England's exports to Canada were also significant, totalling \$10.8 billion in 1997.

Atlantic Canada and New England

In 1997, Atlantic Canada (New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island) and New England traded a total of \$3.7 billion in goods, providing each other's consumers and industries with vital products and supporting thousands of jobs on both sides of the border.

In 1997, Atlantic Canada exported nearly \$3.2 billion worth of goods to the New England states, while New England merchandise exports to the Atlantic provinces totalled nearly \$500 million. (The disparity between the two trade figures is not surprising given that New England's total population is five times greater than that of Atlantic Canada.)

The New England-Atlantic Canada Link

Trade between New England and Atlantic Canada is diverse. In addition to the traditionally active exporting sectors of lumber, fish processing and energy, many high tech and high value-added industries are adding to the trade mix. These include biotechnology, telecommunications and information technology.

Because of the strong historical ties between the two regions, many New England and Atlantic Canada businesses share their first exporting experience with one another.



Investment between New England and Canada

A healthy balance in direct investments exists on both sides of the border, with 72 Canadian affiliates in New England and 83 New England affiliates in Canada.

New England investors have substantial investments in Atlantic Canada. During the past year, three Massachusetts' biotechnology firms and one software firm have established affiliates in Canada. In the United States, Canadian pharmacist Jean Coutu became the second-largest pharmaceutical retailer in New England through an acquisition. Two Canadian software developers also opened local offices in New England.

For more information about individual province and state trade please consult our Web site at: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~boston

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News Release

September 8, 1998

No. 207

**CLARIFICATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF LA
FRANCOPHONIE**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade today clarified the government's responsibilities during visits to Canada by foreign dignitaries.

This clarification was made in the context of the official visit to Canada, which started Sunday, September 6, of Secretary-General of La Francophonie Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The Secretary-General first visited Moncton, Fredericton and Peggy's Cove. He is also scheduled to visit Toronto, Montréal, Québec, Sudbury and Ottawa.

The visit was planned by the federal government together with the relevant provincial governments, and has been organized in accordance with the prerogatives of governmental levels concerned. In addition, the federal government has been particularly careful to follow the division of responsibilities specified in its agreements with the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick as "participating governments" in La Francophonie.

Under Canadian and international law, the federal government has an obligation to provide security and protection to high-ranking foreign dignitaries while they are in Canada, including official representatives of international intergovernmental organizations. For this purpose, the government must ensure that the security measures put in place meet requirements of effectiveness and continuity.

It is also in a spirit of co-operation that the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick, as governments with "participating" status in La Francophonie, were invited to contribute to the program of the visit.

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News Release

September 9, 1998

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ERRATUM

In news release number 206, dated September 8, 1998, **MARCHI TO VISIT HALIFAX AND BOSTON ON ATLANTIC CANADA TRADE PROMOTION TRIP**, the following section should have read as:

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will visit **Halifax on Thursday, September 10, and Boston on Friday, September 11**, to meet with prominent business and investment leaders on both sides of the Atlantic border.



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NEWS RELEASE

September 10, 1998

No. 208

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CANADA HOSTS FIRST ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING IN IQALUIT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jane Stewart will host the first ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in Iqaluit, in Canada's eastern Arctic, from September 17 to 18, 1998.

Delegates from eight countries and three international organizations representing Indigenous peoples will review and approve plans for the Council's work for the next two years. They will also welcome a fourth Indigenous organization to the table. The meeting will end Canada's two-year term as first chair of the Council; the Council was launched in Ottawa in September 1996.

"Arctic nations share an environment and many common interests, and co-operative efforts between nations can make a difference in the lives of Northerners," said Minister Axworthy. "This Council meeting is an opportunity for governments, Indigenous peoples and other participants to discuss those interests and establish some priorities and plans for the next few years.

Since the Council was inaugurated two years ago, working groups have been focussing on co-operative approaches on a range of issues. Ministers will review action plans in areas such as the protection of the marine environment; preventing and responding to environmental emergencies; and conserving arctic flora and fauna. They will also discuss priorities for co-operation in health, education and economic development.

"The Arctic region is a fundamental part of Canada's society, economy and geography. As we make progress with northern Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples on the many issues before us in the North, we must continue to strengthen partnerships with our circumpolar neighbours. The two agendas are inextricably linked," said Minister Stewart.



The Council builds on the effective international co-operation between circumpolar countries, begun in 1991 under the earlier Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), which now comes under the umbrella of the Council.

The Arctic Council brings together eight circumpolar countries: Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States.

The Council is also unique among international bodies for involving on a permanent basis a representation of northern Indigenous peoples as Permanent Participants. The three Permanent Participants at present are the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North. Accredited Observers include non-Arctic states and non-governmental organizations.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Other Web sites:

DFAIT: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca> search "Arctic"

DIAND: <http://www.inac.gc.ca/sds/index.html>

Arctic Council Secretariat: <http://www.nrc.ca/arctic/about.html>

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News Release

September 11, 1998

No. 209

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS TALIBAN FOR MURDER OF IRANIANS IN AFGHANISTAN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the Taliban in Afghanistan for the murder of representatives of the Iranian consulate in the Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif. He also indicated Canada's support for the United Nations Security Council's call for an urgent investigation into these crimes.

"The killing of these Iranian officials demonstrates blatant disregard of international law, and the Taliban cannot be excused for its failure to control its soldiers," said Mr Axworthy. "Canada condemns these actions and any other forms of violence against individuals in Afghanistan."

After having repeatedly denied any knowledge of their whereabouts, the Taliban admitted yesterday (September 10) that its military forces had killed the missing Iranians. The Taliban leadership claim that its soldiers committed the murders on their own and without any orders. The confirmation of the murder of these representatives follows on earlier reports of mass killings of civilians when Taliban forces captured Mazar-e-Sharif on August 8.

"On behalf of Canada, I express our condolences to the people of Iran for the loss of their representatives," said Mr Axworthy. "I repeat that the Afghan crisis must be resolved by peaceful means and that neighbouring states must refrain from any actions which could exacerbate the situation."

- 30 -

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News Release

September 14, 1998

No. 210

**CANADA WELCOMES THE APPOINTMENT OF
A NEW PRIME MINISTER IN RUSSIA**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the appointment of Foreign Minister Primakov as Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and expressed the hope that the new Russian government will continue and reinvigorate the reform program. The quick approval of his nomination by the Duma suggests that a full-fledged new government can start taking measures to stabilize the economic situation.

"Canada and other Western countries already have excellent working relations with Mr. Primakov," said Mr. Axworthy. "We are encouraged by the fact that Mr. Primakov, as a specialist in international affairs, will be sensitive to the international implications of events in Russia."

Minister Axworthy also congratulated Mr. Igor Ivanov on his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and noted that he looked forward to continuing with him the work that was undertaken with his predecessor to promote the further development of Canada-Russia relations.

- 30 -

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Jews Release

September 15, 1998

No. 211

\$62.5 MILLION IN SOFTWOOD FEES TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO FOUR PROVINCES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today that the federal government has distributed to four provinces \$62.5 million collected from fees paid by exporters of softwood lumber during the second year of the Softwood Lumber Agreement. The Agreement applies to exports of lumber to the United States which originate from the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

"Distribution of this money to the provinces fulfils the commitment the federal government made when we signed the Softwood Lumber Agreement in April 1996," said Minister Marchi.

Under the Canada-U.S. Agreement on Softwood Lumber, fees are imposed on lumber exports to the United States when those shipments exceed the annual fee-free allocation of 14.7 billion board feet. The fees distributed to the four provinces were collected during the second year of the Agreement. Approximately \$7.3 million has been returned to Alberta, \$10.9 million to Ontario, \$15.8 million to Quebec and \$28.5 million to British Columbia.

The Canada-U.S. Agreement on Softwood Lumber provides Canadian companies with secure access to the U.S. market. The value of softwood lumber exports to the United States covered under the Agreement was \$9.3 billion in the second year.

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

SOFTWOOD LUMBER AGREEMENT

Softwood lumber has been an area of trade friction between Canada and the United States for over 15 years. After lengthy negotiations, Canada and the United States finalized the Agreement on Softwood Lumber, effective April 1, 1996.

Benefits

The Agreement provides Canadian exporters with a guarantee against U.S. trade actions for five years. It includes an unprecedented U.S. government commitment to dismiss any new petitions for trade action.

The Agreement has enabled Canada's lumber industry to avoid substantial tariffs, which the U.S. government had been threatening to impose on Canadian exports of softwood lumber. Those tariffs would have been paid directly to the U.S. government rather than being retained in Canada.

Consultations

The 1996 Softwood Lumber Agreement, including export fees, was negotiated in full consultations with both industry and the governments of the affected provinces.

Export Fees

In return for the U.S. guarantee against trade actions, Canada agreed that softwood lumber exports to the United States originating from Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec would be charged an export fee when these lumber shipments exceeded specific levels. The Agreement states that exports exceeding 14.7 billion board feet per year will be subject to fees, adjusted annually for inflation, of US\$50 per thousand board feet for the first 650 million board feet and US\$100 per thousand board feet for additional quantities.

In 1997-98, export fees on softwood lumber products were levied on 791 million board feet, or 5.1 percent of the 15.4 billion board feet exported to the United States under the Agreement.

Revenue collected by the Government of Canada through export fees is distributed to the governments of the provinces from which the fees were collected, following adjustments for certain expenses.

Lumber originating from the Maritime Provinces, Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Territories are exempt from the Agreement. A separate agreement was reached between Canada and the United States on shipments from the Maritime Provinces and

Newfoundland; this preserves their traditional exemption from U.S. trade cases.

Distribution of Export Fees during the Second Year

For the second year of the Agreement (April 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998), \$62.5 million has been distributed to the provinces as follows: \$7.3 million to Alberta, \$10.9 million to Ontario, \$15.8 million to Quebec and \$28.5 million to British Columbia. These fees cannot be re-transferred by the provinces to individuals or to firms in the softwood lumber industry.

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Verus Release

September 15, 1998

No. 212

CANADA TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL MINE MONITORING PROGRAM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced a Canadian contribution of \$450 000 to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in support of the "Landmine Monitor" program. This funding will help to enhance the capacity of the ICBL and its member organizations to monitor international compliance with the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel (AP) mines.

"Monitoring compliance is about making sure that the Convention becomes much more than words on paper," said Mr. Axworthy. "It is about making sure that the Convention will have concrete impact on the lives of people who must live with landmines every day. It is about making sure that the millions of mines held in stockpiles around the world will not poison the ground for future generations."

The Ottawa Convention has compliance monitoring provisions that include both traditional disarmament approaches, such as information exchanges and fact-finding missions, and humanitarian law approaches, such as reports from international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the ICBL. Many of the NGOs active on the AP mine issue have significant field experience, an ongoing presence in mine-affected states, as well as a long history of documenting the various dimensions of the AP mine problem.

The contribution comes from the \$100 million Landmine Fund, which Canada announced last December at the signing conference for the Ottawa Convention. The ICBL will use the funding to:

- implement a training program to provide its treaty implementation working group with the skills needed to conduct field research;
- establish a global database to consolidate information resulting from such research;



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- support the production of an annual report on Convention implementation; and
- support experts' meetings needed to conduct these projects.

The Minister's announcement coincided with the Landmine Monitor Meeting taking place September 14-19 in Dublin, Ireland. Minister Axworthy also announced that the next such meeting would take place in Ottawa this December.

- 30 -

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News Release

September 15, 1998

No. 213

**AXWORTHY TO MEET WITH NORWEGIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER IN OTTAWA**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will meet his Norwegian counterpart, Knut Vollebaek, in Ottawa on September 16. As part of the follow-up to the work initiated under the Norway-Canada Partnership for Action, established in the Lysoen Declaration of last May, the ministers will review plans for further Norway-Canada consultation and co-operation in the areas of human security, human rights, humanitarian law, conflict prevention and democracy and good governance. Following the meeting, the ministers will also sign a mutual legal assistance treaty.

"Our partnership attests to the long-standing friendship of our two countries and to our shared values in many areas of common interest," said Mr. Axworthy. "In addition to having contributed to the establishment, last July, of an independent and effective international criminal court of justice, this partnership involves intense collaboration with respect to the ban on anti-personnel mines, including mine clearance and victim assistance."

In the context of the Norway-Canada Partnership, ministers Axworthy and Vollebaek will sign a mutual legal assistance treaty, which calls for each country to provide the other with "the widest measure of mutual assistance in criminal matters." They will also review areas of international concern, with a particular focus on conflict prevention, the proliferation of military small arms and weapons, and ways to eliminate the exploitation and abuse of children, including children involved in armed conflict.

Both ministers will participate in a meeting of the Arctic Council in Iqaluit from September 17 to 18.

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News Release

September 16, 1998

No. 214

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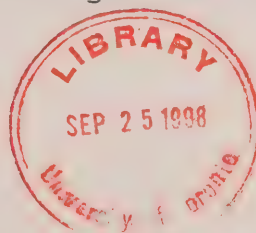
FOREIGN MINISTERS WELCOME 40th RATIFICATION OF THE LANDMINE CONVENTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today joined the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Norway and South Africa, along with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, in welcoming the 40th ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention. Earlier today, Burkina Faso became the 40th signatory to ratify, setting the date for the formal entry into force of the Convention.

On March 1, 1999, the first day of the sixth month following the 40th ratification, the Convention will become binding international law for every country that has ratified. On that day, the clock starts ticking for States Parties to comply with the obligations of the Convention – in particular, clearing anti-personnel mines from their land and destroying stockpiles. In addition, the Convention provides a comprehensive framework for international co-operation and assistance to mine-affected countries.

The four countries each made important contributions to the successful conclusion of the Ottawa Convention, among which: Austria provided the text of the draft Convention; Norway hosted the negotiations in September, 1997, leading to the adoption of the Convention text; South Africa chaired the Convention negotiations in Oslo; and Canada hosted the signing ceremony for the Ottawa Convention in December 1997.

"This is a significant step toward a world free of anti-personnel mines," said Mr. Axworthy. "The Ottawa Convention is now more than a noble document, it has become a permanent part of international law. This has happened remarkably quickly and I commend all the countries that have signed and ratified the Convention for their leadership."



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"This is a major breakthrough for ridding the world from the evil of anti-personnel mines and record speed for a treaty becoming effective," said Austria's Foreign Affairs Minister Wolfgang Schüssel. "We will closely watch the implementation of the ban, expose the culprits for the laying of new mines, like right now in Kosovo and Angola, and assist those suffering because of the mines. Our moral obligation has become a legal one."

"The rapid ratification process is a clear expression of the determination of the international community to overcome the humanitarian challenge posed by anti-personnel mines. Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations must intensify their concerted efforts to translate the goals of the Convention into lasting results for the millions of affected people and communities worldwide," said Norway's Foreign Affairs Minister Knut Vollebaek.

"This marks a major step forward in ridding Africa, the most mine-afflicted continent, from these terrible weapons. The Convention will also promote mine clearance and victim assistance to mine victims thereby contributing significantly to our African renaissance efforts," said South Africa's Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo.

One hundred and twenty-two states signed the Convention when it first opened for signature last December. There are now 130 signatories and, compared to many other treaties, the pace of ratification has been very rapid, signalling the continued strong international political and public momentum behind the ban.

Countries that have ratified the ban are: Andorra, Austria, Bahamas, Belize, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Grenada, The Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Niue, Norway, Peru, Samoa, San Marino, South Africa, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

Entry into force will also lead to the First Meeting of the States Parties, expected in mid-1999. At that meeting, countries party to the Convention will gather to review progress to date in implementing the Convention and set new goals for increased international co-operation to meet the humanitarian challenges of anti-personnel mines.

The four Ministers called upon all countries to join them in becoming States Parties to the Convention and pledged to work together to promote effective global mine action.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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(613) 995-1851

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

September 17, 1998

No. 215

AXWORTHY RELEASES CONSULTATION PAPER ON NORTHERN FOREIGN POLICY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today released Canada's Arctic foreign policy consultation paper, *Toward a Northern Foreign Policy for Canada*.

"The new foreign policy consultation paper charts the way for co-operative efforts with other circumpolar countries to deal with a wide range of northern issues," said Mr. Axworthy, at the first ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in Iqaluit, Canada. "The paper serves as a platform for further consultation with territorial governments, northern Aboriginal organizations and other interested Canadians, leading to a final foreign policy framework for coming years."

Mr. Axworthy said that recent events within Canada and abroad prompted the new policy consultation paper. These events include the Government's response to the recent Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, *Gathering Strength*; recent land claims settlements; creation of the new northern territories of Nunavut and the western Arctic; and the establishment of the international Arctic Council, which comprises eight countries and three international organizations representing Indigenous peoples.

The consultation paper deals with seven major themes:

- sustainable development;
- environmental protection;
- social and cultural renewal;
- regional good governance and democratic development;
- northern sovereignty and security;
- bilateral relations with northern neighbours; and
- the consultative process.

Mr. Axworthy also welcomed publication of a report by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development on Canada's circumpolar relations. Cross-Canada public discussions called the



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National Forum on Canada's Circumpolar Relations were held in May and June 1998. The results contributed to the consultation paper on northern foreign policy for Canada.

The National Forum report is available at: www.cfp-pec.gc.ca

Toward a Northern Foreign Policy for Canada is available on the Web site of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/arctic/menu-e.htm> and will be the basis for further public consultations.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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(613) 995-1874

For information on the National Forum report:

Alison McCuaig
Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development
(613) 944-4150

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

September 18, 1998

No. 216

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CANADIAN OBJECTIVES MET AT ARCTIC COUNCIL MEETING

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jane Stewart are pleased that Canada met its objectives for the first Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, held in Iqaluit in Canada's eastern Arctic, from September 17 to 18, 1998.

Over the last two days of meetings, the eight circumpolar Council member countries and the four Permanent Participants, which represent Indigenous peoples of the North, agreed on Action Plans for the next two years, and adopted Canada's Children and Youth of the Arctic initiative.

The Council also supported initiatives on telemedicine; resource management, including fisheries, cultural tourism and ecotourism; technology transfer to improve Arctic sanitation systems; and national sustainable development strategies.

"Under Canada's chairmanship, the Arctic Council has been launched on a sound footing as a new international organization," said Minister Axworthy. "The agenda we've developed for co-operation and co-ordination among Arctic countries, with the permanent participation of Northerners, will ensure that sustainable development, with a strong emphasis on youth and education, will be an integral part of the Council's work in the years to come."

"The North is really the frontier of opportunity for the 21st century, and the work of the Council is key to realizing its full potential," said Minister Stewart. "Canada's Children and Youth of the Arctic initiative will make a real difference to those who will be most affected by the decisions we take at the Council and at home in Canada. The initiative will focus on the health and well-being of young people, and the need to encourage sustainable development knowledge and learning."



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Consistent with the focus on children and youth, the Government of Canada, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, also announced that it will sponsor two six-to eight-month international youth internships for Inuit youth within the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, one of the Council's Permanent Participants. These internships are part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy.

Canada supports the development of the concept of a University of the Arctic, a "university without walls," and formally encourages the Circumpolar Universities Association to move forward with their initiative, as a result of the Arctic Council Ministers' endorsing a working group proposal on the concept.

Canada continues to support the work of the four Working Groups of the Council. For example, the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group, with Canada as its chair, has produced a Regional Plan of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (the RPA). The RPA was adopted at the Iqaluit meeting. The initial phase of the RPA focusses on Persistent Organic Pollutants and heavy metals, which present a major pollution threat to the Arctic marine environment. Canada also continues to support Russia in the development of its related National Program of Action.

Under the Emergency Preparedness, Prevention and Response (EPPR) Working Group, Canada led in preparing the *Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters*, which was presented at Iqaluit. The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group, chaired by Canada, developed a strategic plan for the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, which was adopted at the Iqaluit meeting.

In 1997, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) Working Group produced the *Arctic Pollution Issues: A State of the Arctic Environment Report*. At the Iqaluit meeting, the Working Group released the fully referenced scientific report, *AMAP Assessment Report: Arctic Pollution Issues*. This report highlights the need for global action on pollutants affecting the Arctic ecosystem. Canada is pleased that the AMAP will have an even stronger focus on the impact of pollution on human health in the north.

Canada emphasized the importance of the unique role of the Permanent Participants at the Council and today welcomed the Aleut International Association as a new Permanent Participant. Canada will work to secure the participation of more Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council. The Council also confirmed Observer status for several organizations.

Canada continues its already significant contribution to the involvement of the Permanent Participant organizations,

announcing at the Iqaluit meeting a contribution of \$50 000 toward the operations of the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS). The IPS is based in Denmark and supports the activities of the Permanent Participants at the Council.

The Arctic Council was established in 1996 as a high-level forum to promote circumpolar co-operation and co-ordination among Arctic states with the involvement of Arctic Indigenous communities on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection.

- 30 -

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Kelly Acton
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(819) 997-0002

Steve Outhouse
Media Relations, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND)
(819) 997-8404

Steven Joudry
Nunavut Secretariat, Iqaluit
(867) 979-1605

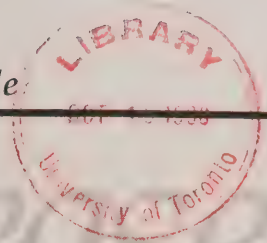
Web sites to consult:

DFAIT: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/arctic/menu-e.htm>

DIAND: <http://www.inac.gc.ca/sds/index.html>

Arctic Council Secretariat: <http://www.nrc.ca/arctic/about.html>

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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News Release

September 21, 1998

No. 217

AXWORTHY LAUNCHES LANDMINE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today launched a public outreach campaign to engage the Canadian public, particularly youth, in a partnership with the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to meet the continuing challenges posed by anti-personnel (AP) mines.

As part of the campaign, the Minister announced the creation of the Canadian Landmine Action Fund, which was conceived and developed jointly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and by Mines Action Canada, an NGO.

"From the beginning, the humanitarian tragedy caused by AP mines has resonated with Canadians. They were among the first to bring this issue to the attention of governments and, as a result, we have formed a solid partnership around our joint commitment to seeing AP mines eliminated," said Mr. Axworthy. "This fund builds on that partnership by offering all Canadians an opportunity to contribute directly to landmine clearance and victim assistance activities in communities around the world."

The Minister made his comments at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School in Orleans, east of Ottawa, where he met with students and staff to tell them about the fund and to introduce them to other elements of the outreach campaign.

One of the innovative approaches of this campaign is the creation of a team of youth mine action ambassadors. Five young people representing each region of the country, plus a national co-ordinator, have been chosen and rigorously trained to travel throughout their region meeting with service groups, the business community, other students and teachers, as well as youth groups, and other interested organizations to heighten awareness of the AP mine issue. The youth ambassadors' work is being partially supported by the Canadian Institute for International Affairs through Canada's Youth International Internship Program – part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy. Ambassadors



will each work in partnership with a host organization, already involved in the AP mine issue, in their region.

The youth ambassadors were on hand at the launch today and met with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier students to demonstrate and field-test some of the electronic information tools developed as part of the outreach program. A CD-ROM highlights 26 milestones that led to the adoption of the historic convention banning AP mines at an international conference in Ottawa last December. The story is told through dozens of images, text, maps and video clips.

Working in small groups, the students also had a chance to research the AP mine issue using the newly re-launched Safe-Lane Web site. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade first introduced Safe-Lane last November in the lead-up to the December conference, and has now revamped the layout and content to highlight the tremendous progress that has been made since then.

The youth ambassadors will be able to use these tools, as well as two videos – a 24-minute version and a shorter 7-minute adaptation – based on interviews with delegates to last December's conference, including first-hand accounts of mine victims and mine-action professionals working in the field.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School is recognized for its expertise and extensive use of technology in the classroom as a learning strategy. The school also has a strong student and faculty commitment to the AP mine issue, and will continue to be involved well beyond today's launch, particularly in bringing the AP message to other schools.

Mr. Axworthy was joined at today's event by the Secretary-General of the Canadian Red Cross, Pierre Duplessis, and a member of the Steering Committee of Mines Action Canada, Debbie Grisdale, along with representatives of the Ottawa-Carleton English Public School Board and other invited guests.

Close to 10 000 copies of the CD-ROM are being distributed to public libraries, public and private schools, and universities and community colleges across Canada. The Safe-Lane Web site can be found on the Internet at <www.mines.gc.ca>.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

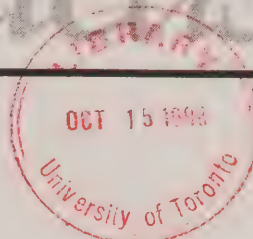
This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

September 22, 1998

No. 218



AXWORTHY TO ATTEND 53RD SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will be in New York on September 22, 24 and 25, as well as October 1 and 2, to attend the 53rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and to take part in a series of meetings. Mr. Axworthy will deliver Canada's address to the General Assembly at mid-day on Friday, September 25.

"Most Canadians share with me the view that our active participation in the UN is central to Canada's international agenda. Membership on the Security Council, if Canada is elected, would enhance our ability to work constructively within the UN and to influence its operations and policies on such Canadian priority issues as peacekeeping, human security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding."

While in New York, the Minister will meet with other foreign ministers and UN permanent representatives to advance Canada's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 1999-2000 term. He will also continue to promote universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention banning landmines, which last week achieved the 40 ratifications necessary for it to enter into force next March. During his October visit, the Minister will participate, along with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a ceremony at the UN, hosted by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, to mark this important milestone and to promote several other landmine initiatives.

Mr. Axworthy will also focus on building support for Canada's proposal to establish an international convention aimed at curbing the global proliferation of military small arms. The Minister will be joined in this effort by his Norwegian counterpart, Mr. Knut Vollebæk, in a briefing the two will give to fellow ministers and UN permanent representatives. Canada and Norway agreed to join forces for concerted action on this and several other human security issues when both ministers signed the Lysøen Declaration in Norway last May. Mr. Axworthy will also



join with representatives of the British-American Security Information Council in a joint news conference and open briefing for all interested parties, including UN officials and permanent representatives, to further highlight the small arms agenda.

The Minister will meet with his Group of Eight (G-8) colleagues as a follow-up to their meeting in London last May under the G-8 Summit process, and will participate in a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Mexican Foreign Minister Rosario Green to discuss North American co-operation in a number of areas. The three had postponed an earlier meeting originally scheduled for last August in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In addition, the Minister will present to the General Assembly a report entitled *Peace in Progress*, which documents the results obtained to date under the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative. The report details projects supported under the Peacebuilding Fund administered by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Peacebuilding Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Through these two funding mechanisms, Canada has supported projects aimed at conflict prevention and resolution, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and strengthening Canadian peacebuilding capacity. The report includes information about Canada's efforts on issues such as small arms proliferation and war-affected children. The Minister first spoke of his concept of peacebuilding during his address to the 51st UNGA session in September 1996.

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A media program is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

VISIT OF THE HONOURABLE LLOYD AXWORTHY
CANADIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TO THE 53RD UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEDIA PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 22

19:40 Photo opportunity
 NAFTA Trilateral Meeting
 Location: Entrance of the Waldorf Towers,
 42nd Floor, 50th Street between Park and Lexington
 Avenues

Thursday, September 24

18:00 Photo opportunity
 Meeting with Central American Foreign Ministers
 Location: Conference Room E, General Assembly
 Building

Friday, September 25

09:00-10:00 Media briefing on Canada's multilateral foreign
 policy
 Political Director, Department of Foreign Affairs
 Location: Conference Room E, General Assembly
 Building

10:00-10:30 BASIC Seminar on Small Arms:
 "Stopping the Spread of Small Arms: International
 Initiatives"
 Location: Conference Room 3, General Assembly
 Building

11:30 approx. Address by the Canadian Minister of Foreign
 Affairs, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, to the UN
 General Assembly
 Location: General Assembly Hall

Note: UN Broadcast Centre numbers for audio/video
feed:

1. TV feed: Waterfront 1646 or at Switch UNN1
2. Audio: (212) 963-7646
3. Radio line: (212) 963-7646

15:00 Photo opportunity
Meeting with the Rio Group Troika (Panama, Mexico
and Paraguay)
Location: UN Conference Room 6, General Assembly
Building

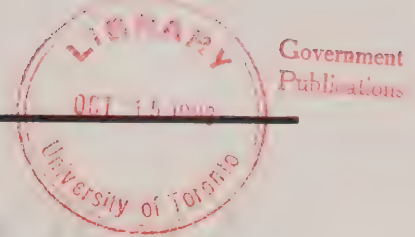
Thursday, October 1

11:00-12:00 Commemoration of the 40th ratification of the
Landmine Treaty, hosted by the International
Campaign to Ban Landmines
Location: UN Room 226, General Assembly Building

15:10-15:20 Media Availability
Location: Delegates' Entrance, General Assembly
Building

Friday, October 2

12:20-12:30 Media Availability
Location: Delegates' Entrance, General Assembly
Building



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September 23, 1998

No. 219

CANADA TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Industry Minister John Manley tabled the legislation which will give force of law to Canada's obligations as a signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) signed on September 24, 1996. The legislation, called the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Implementation Act, will allow Canada to maintain its leadership on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament issues by being among the first to ratify the Treaty.

"The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty establishes a global norm against nuclear testing for all nations, even those that may not immediately join," said Mr. Axworthy. "As a strong advocate of the treaty, Canada is contributing monitoring stations and a laboratory, and will play an important role the treaty's International Monitoring System."

The Treaty recognizes that halting all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by stopping the development and improvement of nuclear weapons through testing.

The Act authorizes the federal departments of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Natural Resources Canada and Health Canada to carry out tasks required under the Treaty. The Act also prohibits persons from causing, encouraging or participating in a nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion for purposes of developing nuclear weapons. In addition, the Act requires the reporting of chemical explosions with 300 tons or more of TNT-equivalent blasting material – a magnitude which could be confused with a nuclear explosion.

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.



For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
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Backgrounder

CANADA'S RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY

Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) signed by Canada on September 24, 1996, recognizes that halting all nuclear weapons test explosions is an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is effective because it constrains the development and improvement of nuclear weapons. The Treaty's International Monitoring System (IMS) will be capable of detecting any nuclear explosion in the atmosphere, underwater or underground, anywhere on earth. Under the IMS, an international network of 321 monitoring stations and 16 laboratories will continuously measure shock waves in air, water and rock, and measure changes in atmospheric radioactivity using four relevant monitoring technologies – seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide. Each monitoring station will continuously transmit data back to the International Data Centre in Vienna for collation, analysis and interpretation. Once the Treaty enters into force, each State that is party to the Treaty will have the right to request an on-site inspection on the territory of another State Party to establish whether a suspicious event was a nuclear explosion.

Canada's Contribution

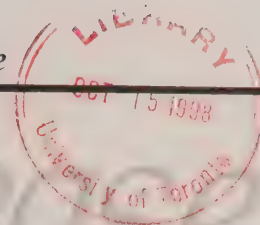
Canada has established a National Authority with overall responsibility for implementing Canadian obligations under the Treaty. Canada, as a signatory and a major advocate of the Treaty, will play an important role in the IMS and is contributing 15 stations, including seismic, radionuclide, infrasound and hydroacoustic stations, and one radionuclide laboratory. The Geological Survey of Canada of Natural Resources Canada, by virtue of its expertise, is host for the seismic, hydroacoustic and infrasound technologies. The Radiation Protection Bureau of Health Canada is host for radionuclide monitoring and assessment technology. Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service, available through the Canadian Meteorological Centre, will provide relevant atmospheric data to Health Canada.

Provisions Under the Act

The Treaty requires that ratifying states are to take appropriate measures to ban activities that are prohibited by the Treaty. The Act, therefore, establishes that any person causing, encouraging or participating in carrying out a nuclear weapon test explosion

or any other nuclear explosion in contravention of Treaty terms could be subject to a term of imprisonment for life. The Treaty also requires that a person who has carried out or has caused to carry out a chemical or mining explosion using 300 tons or more of TNT-equivalent blasting material shall give notice of it to the National Authority. A reporting mechanism has been established in consultation with industry, provinces and territories. Already, industry representatives have voluntarily started to provide data stipulated by the Treaty to the National Authority.

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September 24, 1998

No. 220

CANADA REQUESTS CONSULTATIONS ON SOUTH DAKOTA BLOCKADE

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that Canada has requested consultations under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the South Dakota blockade and other states' measures concerning Canadian trucks carrying cattle, swine and grain.

"The treatment Canadians are receiving at the state border is unfair, unacceptable and violates the United States' obligations under NAFTA and the WTO agreement," said Mr. Marchi. "Our call for consultations under both trade agreements is a first step, and underscores the importance of this issue to Canada and our concern over the U.S. government's inaction to date."

In addition to violating a number of the United States' obligations under NAFTA and the WTO, the South Dakota governor's actions are based on false assertions regarding the health and safety of Canadian cattle, hogs and grain shipped to the United States.

"This is a critical concern to Canada's agriculture industry," said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief. "It is imperative that this situation be resolved before the dispute escalates and irreparable damage is done to farmers and our agricultural trade with the United States," said Minister Vanclief.

Canada is proud of the quality of cattle, hogs and grain it exports to the United States and Canada's shipments meet all U.S. federal government requirements.

"Canada plays by international trade rules, and so should our trading partners," said Ralph Goodale, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

High-level discussions are ongoing between Ministers on both sides of the border. Canada is continuing to consult with



provinces and stakeholders in order arrive at a resolution that is satisfactory to all parties. This is the first time that Canada has sought consultations on a trade dispute simultaneously under both the NAFTA and WTO trade bodies.

- 30 -

Background material on NAFTA and WTO consultation processes are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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Sylvie Millette LeDuc, Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food
(613) 759-1761

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

FLOW CHART OF OF NAFTA TRADE DISPUTE

Parties may request consultations on any actual or proposed measure or any matter that they think may affect the operation of the NAFTA. Consultations on matters regarding perishable agricultural goods must commence within 15 days of the delivery of the request. If the parties fail to resolve the dispute within 30 days (15 for perishable agricultural goods) any party may request a meeting of the NAFTA Commission and within 30 days of that meeting request that an arbitral panel be formed.

Ideal Timeline for NAFTA Chapter 20 Arbitral Panel as per the Rules of Procedures (Two Disputing Parties)

Request for Arbitral Panel by Party filed on	Day 0
Selection of Chair to be completed by	within 15 days after Request for Arbitral Panel
Terms of Reference may be filed by	20 days after filing of Request
Panel Selection to be completed by	15 days after selection of Chair
Initial Written Submission (Complaining Party) to be filed by	10 days after Panel selection is completed
Written Counter-Submission (Party Complained Against) to be filed by	20 days after Initial Written Submission
Initial Written Submission (3rd. Party) to be filed by	20 days after Initial Written Submission
List of deliberators and others attending the hearing to be delivered by	5 days before the hearing
Hearing to be held by	Hearing (to be determined by Chair)
Supplementary Written Submission to be filed by	within 10 days of hearing
Request for Scientific Review Board to be filed by	not later than 15 days after the hearing

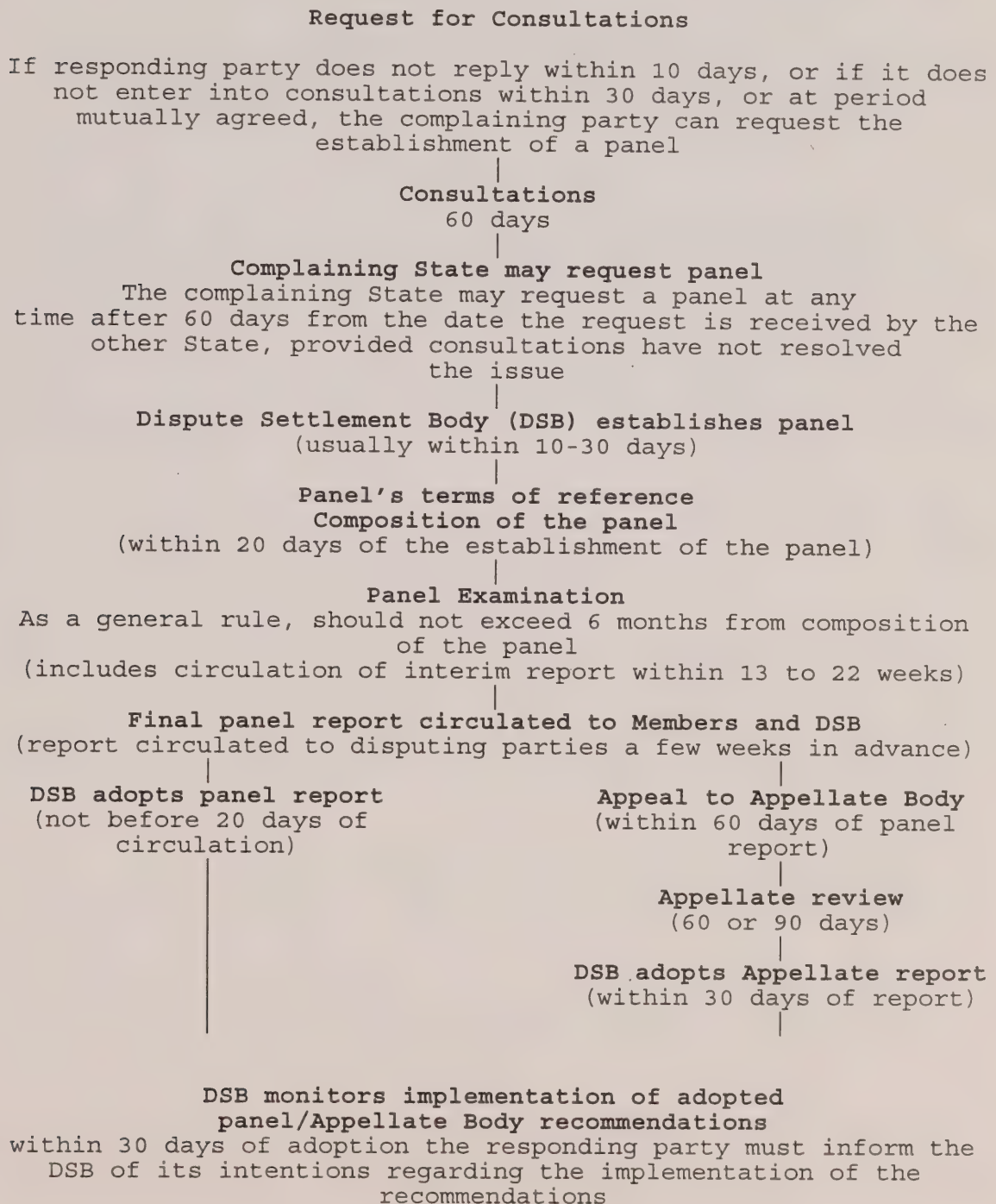
Initial Report to be filed by	within 90 days after Panel selection is completed
Comments on Initial Report to be filed by	within 14 days after presentation of Initial Report
FINAL REPORT DUE BY	within 30 days after Initial Report

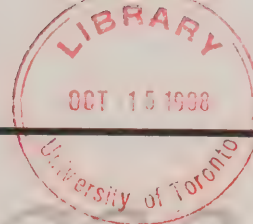
Note: This timeline assumes an ideal case.

Backgrounder

FLOW CHART OF WTO TRADE DISPUTE

The purpose of this indicative flow chart is twofold. First, to highlight the main steps in the evolution of a trade dispute based on standard proceedings under the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding and, secondly, to provide a synoptical view of DSU time frames.





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News Release

September 25, 1998

No. 221

NEW COMMERCIAL DEALS ANNOUNCED BETWEEN CANADIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PARTNERS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced six business and investment deals between Canadian and South African partners at a special signing ceremony held during the Canada-South Africa Business Summit in Toronto.

The event involved Canadian companies and members of the South African business delegation travelling with South African President Nelson Mandela, who is on an official visit to Canada from September 23 to 25.

"Today's deals demonstrate the wide variety of opportunities South Africa holds for Canada," said Mr. Marchi. "South Africa is evolving quickly and Canadian firms can provide the expertise in sectors where South Africa needs it most."

South Africa is Canada's most important trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa and provides a gateway for Canadian companies to other countries in the region. Canadian exports to South Africa in 1997 were \$361 million and imports were \$494 million. This represented an increase of 180 percent in two-way trade since sanctions against the previous apartheid regime were lifted in 1993.

Canada's main exports to South Africa in 1997 were powered aircraft, wheat, meslin, sulphur and wood pulp. South Africa's main exports to Canada in 1997 were platinum, precious metals, iron, steel, and fruits and nuts.

"The ability of the Canadian and South African governments to work so well together is helping our companies do business," said Mr. Marchi. "In the end, our partnership approach will support economic growth and job creation."

The day-long summit was organized by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and by the Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Africa. Nearly 1000



people attended the Summit luncheon, where they heard a keynote address by President Mandela. Speakers at the Business Summit in the morning included Minister Marchi, South African Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel, Apotex International President Craig Baxter, Thebe Investment Corporation South Africa Chief Executive Officer Vusi Khanyile and Ms. Portia Molefe of Investment South Africa.

- 30 -

Details of the business deals announced today are in the attached backgrounder.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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Backgrounder

CANADA-SOUTH AFRICA BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Grintek Limited of South Africa to evaluate business opportunities between the two companies. Bell Helicopter is the world's leading commercial helicopter manufacturer. Grintek is South Africa's leader in the field of avionics systems and build-to-print boxes. These Grintek systems could become standard equipment on all of Bell's commercial helicopters.

Data Capture Technologies Inc., Montréal, Quebec

In co-operation with the Canadian Commercial Corporation, Data Capture Technologies Inc. has signed an agreement with the Eastern Gauteng Service Council of South Africa for the supply of tax remittance (IT) equipment and services for use by the Germiston City Council. The sale is for approximately C\$265 000 and includes a five-year maintenance contract. Data Capture Technologies will be investing over C\$140 000 in South Africa over the coming six months on staff training, technology transfer and equipment purchases.

Desbro Holdings Limited, Toronto, Ontario

Desbro Holdings Limited, an international development and investment group, reached a joint venture agreement with the Black Empowerment Group, Cape Pipes Ltd of South Africa. A facility will be established in Belville, Cape Province, to manufacture polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polypropylene pipes and fittings. The initial investment will be C\$1.3 million, with Desbro holding a 49 percent equity stake and providing technical assistance. The facility is expected to be in production by January 1999.

International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Ontario

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa to further co-operation in joint research projects in trade and industry in South Africa. The projects will, for example, help promote the small, medium and micro enterprise sector; create manufacturing advisory centres; and develop an industrial strategy for South Africa. This collaboration is particularly important in light of the establishment of the Southern Africa Development Community Free Trade Area by 2004, and the projects will create partnerships

with non-governmental organizations, private companies and universities.

Newbridge Networks, Ottawa, Ontario

Newbridge Networks announced a multi-million dollar contract to supply Telekom South Africa with state-of-the-art next-generation networking equipment. The innovative network will enable Telekom South Africa to deliver a broad range of multimedia services to its business customers and satisfy the growing demand for telecommunications services from residential customers.

Nortel (Northern Telecom), Ottawa, Ontario

Nortel announced that it is expanding its presence in South Africa to serve as a hub for all of the Southern Africa region. By the end of this year, Nortel anticipates having 30 employees in South Africa under the Nortel/Bay Networks umbrella. The Nortel team will serve existing telecom operators and customers in the banking and government sectors, and will pursue new opportunities in the enterprise data and wireless areas.

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News Release

September 28, 1998

No. 222

CANADA CONCERNED OVER MALAYSIA'S USE OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT

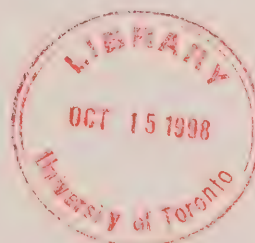
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed strong concern over the Malaysian government's use of the Internal Security Act (ISA) to arrest and detain Malaysia's former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Anwar Ibrahim was arrested on September 20 under the ISA, which allows for detention without trial. Fourteen of his political associates have also been arrested under the Act. The Malaysian authorities have placed restrictions on Anwar Ibrahim's wife, Dr. Wan Azizah, and banned rallies by Anwar Ibrahim's supporters.

"Canada is very concerned about the use of the Internal Security Act to restrict freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in Malaysia," said Mr. Axworthy. "We call on the Malaysian authorities to release all those detained under the Act, including Anwar Ibrahim, or to charge them in a court of law, so that they may defend themselves according to due process."

Anwar Ibrahim was removed by Prime Minister Mahathir in early September, the day after the government announced new economic policies. Anwar Ibrahim was arrested following his participation in a political rally in Kuala Lumpur, where he openly criticized Prime Minister Mahathir's policies.

"We believe all Malaysian citizens should be afforded the right to a fair and open trial as provided for in Malaysian law and in the Malaysian Constitution," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

-30-



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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
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-C55

News Release

September 29, 1998

No. 223

MONGOLIA'S MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Rinchinnyamyn Amarjargal, Minister for External Relations for Mongolia, will visit Ottawa and Vancouver from September 29 to October 1.

"This visit will give Canada and Mongolia the opportunity to mark 25 years of bilateral relations. We will celebrate this anniversary by signing a Declaration of Friendship and Co-operation," said Mr. Axworthy.

In Ottawa today, Mr. Amarjargal will meet with the Speaker of the Senate Gildas L. Molgat, Deputy Prime Minister Herbert Eser Gray, Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan, and President of the Canadian International Development Agency Mrs. Huguette Labelle, before leaving for Vancouver.

In Vancouver, Minister Amarjargal is scheduled to announce the appointment of an Honorary Consul.

"Having visited Mongolia earlier this year, I am particularly interested in hearing more about the considerable progress that Mongolia has made toward building an open economy that relies on democratic institutions," said Mr. Chan. During the visit, both countries will explore new areas of co-operation, and will continue working toward strengthening economic relations.

Canada appointed an Honorary Consul to Mongolia last year. Mongolia opened a Consulate General in Toronto in March 1998.

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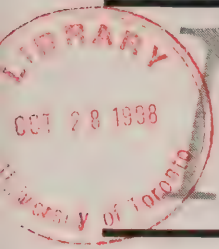
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News Release

September 30, 1998

No. 224

CHINESE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Foreign Affairs Minister for the People's Republic of China, Tang Jiaxuan, will visit Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver from September 30 to October 5. During his visit, Mr. Tang will discuss a wide range of issues including arms control, environmental issues and the Canada-China human rights dialogue.

Canada and China have developed a useful and effective dialogue on human rights issues over the years. Highlights include:

- the creation of a Canada-China Joint Committee on Human Rights;
- bilateral projects on legal reform;
- an Asia-Pacific symposium on Human Rights, co-sponsored by Canada and China, which included independent human rights institutions from the region.

"I look forward to discussing with the Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister our efforts to further advance co-operation on human rights issues," said Mr. Axworthy.

The two Ministers will also discuss progress on the flood relief efforts along the Yangtze and Songhua Rivers. Canada was one of the first countries to answer calls for help from the International Red Cross and the Red Cross Societies for flood relief in China. Canada has contributed a total of \$1.2 million which has been used for the purchase of medical supplies, sanitation materials and water purification tablets.

In Ottawa, Mr. Tang will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Speaker of the Senate Gildas Molgat, Speaker of the House of Commons Gilbert Parent, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

In Calgary, Mr. Tang will attend the opening of the Chinese Consulate General. He will then travel to Banff, Lake Louise and Moraine Lake.



In Vancouver, Mr. Chan will host a dinner for Mr. Tang. "I am delighted to welcome Minister Tang to Canada. Everyday, I am encouraged by our strong bilateral relations and I am confident that Mr. Tang's visit will advance many of our common interests," said Mr. Chan.

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News Release

September 30, 1998

No. 225

PARLIAMENTARIANS, ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS IN CHIAPAS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Canadian observers, including federal parliamentarians and representatives of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), will visit Mexico in early October to observe elections in the State of Chiapas.

"This visit demonstrates Canada's ongoing interest in events in Chiapas," said Mr. Axworthy. "I look forward to hearing about the observers' experiences and impressions upon their return to Canada."

The parliamentarians and AFN representatives will work in close partnership on the mission. Members of the delegation include: Raymonde Folco (Member of Parliament, Laval West); the Honourable Lois Wilson (Senator, Ontario); Deepak Obhrai (Member of Parliament, Calgary East); Richard Marceau (Member of Parliament, Charlesbourg); Ghislain Picard, Assembly of First Nations Vice-Chief (Quebec/Labrador); Maryanne Stoney, Chief, Little Pine First Nation; and Allan Torbitt, Senior Advisor on International Affairs of the Assembly of First Nations.

The observers will meet with federal electoral authorities in Mexico City on October 1, and will then travel to Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the capital of Chiapas, where they will meet with the State Electoral Council and representatives of the major political parties. On October 4, they will visit several communities to observe the elections for municipal and state congress representatives. The delegation will return to Canada on October 7.

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour noted that Mexico's federal co-ordinator for Chiapas, Emilio Rabasa, has been visiting Canada this week. "I welcome Mr. Rabasa's visit on the eve of this observer mission, and I am pleased that he has met with parliamentarians and other groups while in Canada," said Mr. Kilgour.



This is the second Canadian parliamentary delegation to visit Chiapas this year. In May, a multi-party delegation of Members of Parliament visited Chiapas and met a cross-section of government representatives and citizens.

Following that mission, Minister Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau announced that Canada was increasing the Canada Fund allocation for Mexico for 1998/99 to \$500 000, an increase of \$50 000, and that \$100 000 of the total amount would be targeted to support the socio-economic development of Indigenous communities.

-30-

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News Release

October 1, 1998

No. 226

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced a Canadian contribution of \$300 000 to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). This funding will help sustain the ICBL's work in promoting rapid ratification of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel (AP) mines by existing signatories. The ICBL will also use this funding to work toward the ultimate goal of universal adherence to the Convention, particularly by promoting it in regions where support remains low, such as the Middle East, Southeast Asia and some of the republics of the Former Soviet Union. This funding will also allow the ICBL to pursue advocacy and policy development work in support of mine clearance and victim assistance.

"I want to express Canada's continued support for the ICBL, one of the organizations that was instrumental in our collective efforts to eliminate anti-personnel mines," said Mr. Axworthy. "They brought to the table first-hand knowledge of the anti-personnel mine issue and the ability to integrate that knowledge into a focussed global campaign to ban this indiscriminate weapon."

Minister Axworthy made his remarks today in New York, where he was participating, along with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Queen Noor of Jordan, Jody Williams, co-recipient, along with the ICBL, of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, and other dignitaries, in an ICBL-sponsored event at the UN marking the 40th ratification of the Ottawa Convention. On September 16, Burkina Faso became the 40th country to ratify, starting the six-month countdown for the Convention to enter into force and become international law for all states parties on March 1, 1999. Since then, Namibia, Benin, Honduras, Senegal and Japan have ratified, bringing the total number of states parties to 45.

The New York event also marked the international launch of *To Walk Without Fear: The Global Movement to Ban Landmines*.

Published by Oxford University Press, this scholarly work by

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various academics, government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations relates the history of the Ottawa Process and the global movement to ban landmines, often from the perspective of their own involvement. Mr. Axworthy contributed a chapter entitled "Towards a New Multilateralism."

Today's contribution, sourced from the five-year, \$100-million Canadian Landmine Fund, brings recent Canadian contributions to the ICBL to a total of \$750 000. On September 15, Canada announced a \$450 000 contribution to the ICBL for the Landmine Monitor Initiative, to help civil society monitor implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

- 30 -

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October 1, 1998

No. 227

AXWORTHY CALLS ON SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACT IN FACE OF WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN KOSOVO

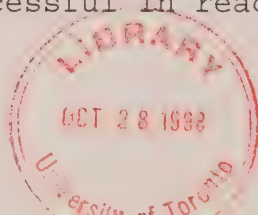
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy met today in New York with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to express his deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. He also outlined Canada's further efforts to encourage a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Kosovo, and announced that he would send a personal envoy to the region.

In his meeting with Mr. Annan, Mr. Axworthy reiterated Canada's strong support for UN Security Council Resolution 1199, which calls for an immediate cease-fire, urgent action to address the humanitarian crisis, and negotiations toward a political settlement. Canada calls upon the members of the Security Council to ensure full compliance by the parties with their obligations under the Resolution. Canada therefore supports further unequivocal Security Council action, consistent with the Council's responsibility to safeguard international peace and security.

"I am profoundly dismayed and saddened by the atrocities being inflicted upon the civilian population in Kosovo," said Mr. Axworthy. Canada holds the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), including President Milosevic, directly accountable for the actions of Yugoslav security forces in Kosovo."

The Minister is sending a personal representative to Belgrade and Pristina next week to once again convey Canadian concerns to the Yugoslav authorities and to the leaders of the Albanian Kosovars. The envoy will deliver letters from Mr. Axworthy to the Yugoslav Foreign Affairs Minister, Zivadin Jovanovic, and to the President of the Democratic League of Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova. Mr. Axworthy is also writing to his Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov, to seek Russia's support for decisive action by the international community.

"Canada hopes that the U.S.-led diplomatic initiative under Ambassador Hill will be successful in reaching an interim



autonomy status for Kosovo," Mr. Axworthy added. "Only meaningful autonomy for Kosovo within the borders of the FRY will address the root causes of the conflict."

Minister Axworthy applauded the unanimous support of the House of Commons yesterday for a resolution calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the parties involved in the inhumane confrontation, to lay down their arms immediately. It also urges them to start negotiating a solution with the help of international organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), as well as other organizations, that share the belief that there can be a lasting, political solution.

Canada has participated in NATO planning for possible action on Kosovo, and continues to support NATO's role in international efforts to end the conflict.

Mr. Axworthy previously condemned the use of anti-personnel mines by all belligerent parties, and the FRY government's refusal to co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on allegations of war crimes in Kosovo.

- 30 -

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News Release

October 2, 1998

No. 228

VIETNAMESE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Nguyen Manh Cam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, will visit Ottawa and Toronto from October 4 to October 6.

In Ottawa, Mr. Cam will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vancilief, and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. In Toronto, Mr. Cam will meet with various members of the business community.

On October 5, Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Cam will discuss economic co-operation, human rights and consular issues. They will also examine the impact of the Asian financial crisis on Vietnam and other countries in the region.

"Vietnam is an important emerging economy in Southeast Asia and plays an influential role in efforts to promote peace and security in the region," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada values its ties with Vietnam, which have increased significantly since diplomatic relations were established 25 years ago."

Mr. Cam's visit to Canada follows several visits to Vietnam by senior Canadian officials. Prime Minister Chrétien visited Vietnam first in 1994 with Team Canada, and in 1997 for the Francophonie Summit. Four visits to Vietnam were also made by Canadian Ministers between 1995 and 1997, including two by Raymond Chan.

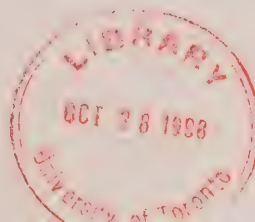
"We are looking forward to expanding bilateral trade and economic links with Vietnam," said Mr. Chan. This visit will be an opportunity to reaffirm our support and encouragement for Vietnam's reintegration into regional and global communities."

- 30 -



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(2:30 p.m. EDT)

News Release

October 2, 1998

No. 229

AXWORTHY CALLS FOR END TO IRAN'S OPPRESSION OF THE BAHAI'S

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed his concern over the September 30 arrest of 32 Baha'i academics in Iran. These arrests are especially troubling as they occurred in the same week that two Baha'i men had death sentences confirmed. The men were convicted of crimes against the state but these crimes amounted to practising their faith.

"These new arrests are an affront to the human rights of Iranian Baha'is and I told Iran's Foreign Minister this when I met him in New York yesterday," said Mr. Axworthy.

The arrests are apparently part of the government's effort to shut down the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education, which was created to address the academic needs of the Iranian Baha'i community. The Iranian government prevents many Baha'is from finishing their secondary schooling and prevents them from attending university.

"We have seen some positive changes in Iran under President Khatami, but it is time for the judicial authorities to end their oppression of the Iranian Baha'i community and respect the rights that are provided for the Baha'is under the Iranian constitution," added Mr. Axworthy.

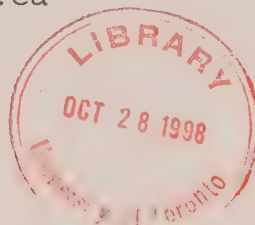
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(4:30 p.m. EDT)



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News Release

October 2, 1998

No. 230

U.S. STATES AGREE TO STOP TRUCK HARASSMENT

The Government of Canada welcomes the agreement by the governors of South Dakota and other northern American states to terminate the harassment of Canadian truckers and the obstruction of access of Canadian cattle, hogs and grain to the United States.

For the past two weeks, South Dakota has been blocking Canadian trucks carrying livestock and grain. Other states, including North Dakota, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming have increased inspections of Canadian trucks.

"I am pleased that the U.S. federal government has intervened to stop the harassment," said International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi. "As a result of this, the Government of Canada has suspended our request for consultations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization dispute settlement processes. However, Canada has advised the U.S. that it will reactivate the consultations immediately if any U.S. state again restricts or obstructs access of Canadian agri-food products."

"Canada took the unprecedented step of requesting consultations under both the NAFTA and WTO to emphasize to the U.S. government that it must live up to its international obligations," Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief said. "The states' agreement to stop harassing trucks opens the way for the two federal governments to resume the discussions we have been having to address issues the industry has identified as trade irritants or potential irritants."

"Canada and the U.S. are each others' best customers," said Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board Ralph Goodale. "We expect the U.S. to fully honour their trade obligations and we will be both vigilant and rigorous in defending Canada's rights and interests."

Minister Vanclief said Canada expects officials from the two federal governments will meet no later than October 8 to begin discussions. "The American administration has indicated a number

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of issues they want to address, and we have our own issues that concern Canada and Canadian exporters," the Minister said.

-30-

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Minister for	Minister Vanclief's	Minister Goodale's
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(19:04 p.m. EDT)

News Release

October 5, 1998

No. 231

CANADA TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada is contributing \$50 000 to the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) in support of international peacebuilding efforts in Ireland. Minister Axworthy made the announcement following a meeting with his Irish counterpart, David Andrews, who is accompanying Ireland's President Mary McAleese during her first state visit to Canada. The IFI promotes social and economic progress in Ireland and encourages contact, dialogue and reconciliation between all sides of the conflict.

"Canada is very committed to supporting peace efforts in Ireland," said Mr. Axworthy. "We are especially pleased that Canada's contribution will be applied toward the continued activities of the Fund's Wider Horizons Program, which focusses on helping Ireland's youth shape a peaceful and prosperous future for themselves."

Canada has contributed more than \$4 million to the International Fund for Ireland since it was established in 1986 by the U.K. and Irish governments.

Canada's contribution of \$50 000 is being made under the Canadian Peacebuilding Program, which is administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT). The Peacebuilding Program is an element of the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative launched in October 1996 as a joint undertaking of DFAIT and the Canadian International Development Agency.

-30-

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(3:00 p.m. EDT)

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News Release

October 5, 1998

No. 232

FEDERAL INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS CELEBRATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF TEAM CANADA INC

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi, Industry Minister John Manley and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief today joined forces in a videoconference ceremony at the third annual convention of the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada in Calgary. The ceremony marked the first anniversary of Team Canada Inc, Canada's network of export service providers.

"My Cabinet colleagues and I launched Team Canada Inc at last year's Alliance convention," said Mr. Marchi in Calgary. "And today we are celebrating one year of significant achievements in streamlining and strengthening the delivery of our trade and investment promotion services to the business community. Team Canada Inc is building on the spirit of innovation and partnership that characterizes the Prime Minister's Team Canada missions."

The three ministers created the Team Canada Inc network last year to provide single-window access to government trade services. The network has since expanded to include 18 federal departments and agencies working in close partnership with the provinces to lead Canadian businesses into global markets.

"Access to Team Canada Inc is available 24 hours a day through the ExportSource Web site," said Mr. Manley in Ottawa. "Our business clients tell us that the site provides them with a practical and efficient source of information on government export promotion services. ExportSource is also an excellent example of how Canadians are using technology to connect with each other and with the international marketplace."

"The Agri-Food Trade Service component of Team Canada Inc and the linkage it provides to the broad range of government export promotion services, including Canada's Trade Commissioner Service, is pivotal in building bridges to foreign markets," said Mr. Vanclief in Montreal. "Canada's agri-food sector

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recorded over \$22 billion in exports last year and the Team Canada Inc partnership was central to that success."

During the videoconference, the three federal ministers also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada to co-operate in the further enhancement of Team Canada Inc programs and services.

- 30 -

A list of the Team Canada Inc partners and a backgrounder are attached.

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(3:10 p.m. EDT)

TEAM CANADA INC PARTNERSHIP LIST
(as of September 30, 1998)

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian Commercial Corporation
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
- Export Development Corporation
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Industry Canada
- National Farm Products Council
- Natural Resources Canada
- Revenue Canada
- Statistics Canada
- Transport Canada
- Western Economic Diversification Canada

Backgrounder

TEAM CANADA INC: NETWORKING FOR SUCCESS

The 1997 Throne Speech pointed out that Team Canada trade missions have not only generated new opportunities for Canadian businesses, they have also shown what we can accomplish when government and the private sector collaborate. A commitment was made to "build on that success with a focussed strategy, developed in consultation with industry, to improve our international economic performance by expanding Canada's trade base." In October 1997, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi addressed this commitment at the annual meeting of the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada in Quebec City, along with Minister John Manley of Industry Canada and Minister Lyle Vanclief of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The ministers focussed on a number of key themes:

- giving the name Team Canada Inc to the co-operative International Business Development (IBD) service network, which is made up of federal departments, provinces, municipalities and the private sector;
- creating a private sector Team Canada Inc Advisory Board to provide strategic trade policy and trade/investment development advice to ministers;
- deploying more Trade Commissioners abroad to reach a 70:30 ratio, field to headquarters, by the year 2006;
- improving contact with Team Canada Inc members through a 1-888 number and the ExportSource Web site;
- creating a unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to champion the special needs of small and medium-sized firms in export markets; and
- integrating an IBD Business Plan across the three core departments working in Team Canada Inc.

These measures to reinforce and expand the Team Canada concept make up the ministers' initial response to what they have heard from businesses across the country and from Cabinet colleagues. But these measures are just the start. The ministers will continue to solicit the views of business associations, special interest groups and the new business Advisory Board.

In one year, the Team Canada Inc partnership has grown from the original three core departments to include 18 federal export information and service providers. The ministers will continue to work with others, including their provincial counterparts, to build the effectiveness of Team Canada Inc in support of Canada's international business development activities.

News Release

October 5, 1998

No. 233

MARCHI PRESENTS 1998 CANADA EXPORT AWARDS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today presented the 1998 Canada Export Awards. Ten Canadian companies, selected from a field of 233 candidates by a committee of business people representing all regions of Canada, were honoured for their outstanding accomplishments. The awards presentation ceremony took place in Calgary in conjunction with the annual conference of the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada.

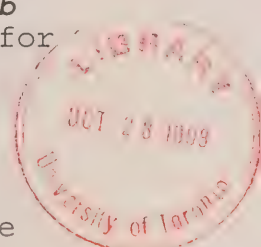
"These companies are great examples of what Canadians can do in international markets," said Mr. Marchi. "They are an inspiration for all of us, and I applaud their success in capturing new markets and in providing high-quality jobs for thousands of Canadians."

Under the theme "Partners in Trade," the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade welcomed the continuing support of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and EDC (Export Development Corporation), as well as the new involvement of Teleglobe Communications Services Inc., as official sponsors of the Canada Export Award program. Maclean Hunter Publishing Limited also joined the team this year as the official media sponsor.

"Our prosperity as a nation depends on our ability to compete in international markets," the Minister said, "and the Canada Export Awards symbolize the successful partnerships that we are building in Canada to advance our business interests both at home and abroad."

Three of the Canada Export Award winners received special recognition by program sponsors: **Prologic Corporation** for **Job Creation Achievement** by CIBC; **Canada Allied Diesel Co. Ltd.** for **Smaller Exporter Achievement** by EDC; and **CrossKeys Systems Corporation** for **Innovation and Technology Achievement** by Teleglobe Communications Services Inc.

As in previous years, Canada's diversity – in terms of both geography and business activity – was well represented at the



awards ceremony. Winners came from all parts of the country and represented a wide range of products and services.

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Profiles of the 1998 Canada Export Award winners are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman
Office of the Minister for International Trade
(613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

For information on the Canada Export Awards and winning companies, contact:

Andrée Mongeon
National and Western Media Relations
Tel: (613) 276-2044
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e-mail: markant@intranet.ca

Marie Terrien
Quebec Media Relations
Tel: (613) 594-8912
Fax: (613) 237-1126
e-mail: marie.terrien@sympatico.ca

Janet MacMillan
Atlantic Media Relations
Tel/Fax: (902) 826-7437
e-mail: 102011.2674@compuserve.com

Photographs of the winning companies are available on:
www.infoexport.gc.ca/awards

For information on the availability of video clips and photographs of the presentation ceremony, contact the above Canada Export Award media relations contacts.

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

PROFILES OF THE WINNERS

ALI Technologies Inc. (Richmond, British Columbia)

ALI Technologies is a medical information technology company that develops and markets filmless diagnostic image and clinical report management systems for hospitals and clinics throughout the world. It was the first company to introduce an electronic picture archiving and communications system (PACS) based on personal computer client-server technology for ultrasound applications.

With 1997 revenues of \$13.6 million, a 97-percent increase over 1996, almost all of which is derived from exports, and an installed base approaching 200 sites worldwide, ALI is the largest supplier of ultrasound management systems in the world. The company has grown from 26 employees in 1995 to 120 in 1998, and market share has risen from about 25 percent in 1996 to more than 70 percent in 1998, due in part to the success of ALI's unique marketing alliances.

Canada Allied Diesel Co. Ltd. — *EDC Smaller Exporter Achievement* (St. Laurent, Quebec)

Canada Allied Diesel (CAD) started out in 1968 supplying fuel injection equipment and services for small diesel engines fitted on buses, trucks and tractors. Today, it supplies and services mainly large diesel engines with 1000-7000 HP capacity for locomotives, ships and electrical generators.

CAD is active in 27 countries worldwide. Exports account for over 90 percent of the company's total sales, which surpassed \$20 million in 1997, a 33-percent increase over 1996. In 1985, CAD had 15 employees; today it employs 90 people as well as subcontracting to dozens of local suppliers in Quebec and Ontario.

CrossKeys Systems Corporation — *Teleglobe Innovation and Technology Achievement* (Kanata, Ontario)

CrossKeys provides its network and service management business solutions to over 165 customers in 45 countries around the world. It has 13 offices in 10 countries, and two research and development centres, one in Kanata and the other in Burnaby, British Columbia. Revenues have grown from \$87 000 in 1992 to \$38.7 million in fiscal 1998. Export revenues rose from \$17.3 million in 1997 to \$32.2 million in 1998.

Over the past two years, exports to Europe, the Middle East and Africa tripled, Asia Pacific opened up as a new market and sales to Latin America continued to grow.

Davis Strait Fisheries Limited (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

With sales of over \$44 million, more than 65 percent derived from exports, and 75 full-time employees, Davis Strait Fisheries (DSF) is one of Canada's largest exporters of northern cold-water shrimp.

In addition to northern shrimp, DSF sources fish internationally, reprocesses the product in Canada, then inspects, grades and ships it to markets around the world. DSF's product line currently includes crab from Greenland, frozen-at-sea ocean perch, and shell fish such as scallops, clams and crab, all of which is reprocessed in Atlantic Canada and exported to the United States.

Davis Strait has made valuable contributions to environmentally responsible and sustainable commercial fishing operations in Canada with the introduction of a harvesting solution known as the Nordmore grate.

Genesis Microchip Inc. (Markham, Ontario)

Genesis Microchip's high-quality image manipulation integrated circuit (IC) solutions provide crisp, clear graphic and video images for a variety of applications, including projection systems, flat panel display products, video workstations, home theatre equipment and dozens of others.

By developing technologies and products that are unique in the world, Genesis has achieved substantial success in export markets, to the point where virtually all of its 1997 revenues of nearly \$15.7 million, a 300-percent increase over the previous year, were generated from export sales to 15 countries throughout the world.

Genesis' customer list reads like a Who's Who of global high-tech leaders, including Apple Computer, Hitachi Ltd., Philips Multimedia, Samsung Electronics, Sony Corp., Texas Instruments and more than 180 other companies.

Global Thermoelectric Inc. (Calgary, Alberta)

Global Thermoelectric Inc., the world's leading supplier of thermoelectric generators for remote power applications, continues to expand its international business even though it

already supplies over 95 percent of thermoelectric generators sold worldwide. Global's thermoelectric generators are recognized worldwide as the most reliable and economic power source for remote applications.

Over the last two years, Global has won major contracts in India, Argentina, China, Brazil, Thailand and Indonesia, bringing its roster of export clients to 46 countries on all seven continents, including Antarctica.

In 1998, Global had sales of more than \$14 million, an 86-percent increase over 1997, with 72 percent coming from exports. Global has also made significant gains in creating jobs and now has 96 full-time employees, an increase of 57 percent over the last three years.

Northern Digital Inc. (Waterloo, Ontario)

Northern Digital Inc. (NDI) is the world's leading supplier of high-tech spatial measurement solutions. Its Optotrak and Polaris opto-electronic measurement systems are sold to high-profile international customers in over 20 countries worldwide. These innovative products are used in a variety of rapidly growing markets, including the industrial, medical, and human motion tracking sectors.

NDI's technology is not restricted to scientific and industrial uses. It also crosses over to the entertainment industry, where it was recently used in creating the menacing lead character for the Sony film *Godzilla*.

New uses for NDI's technology are expected to help boost 1998 revenue by 25 percent over 1997's \$10.7 million, more than 90 percent of which is derived from exports. This is good news for workers in the area. When Northern Digital began operations in 1983, it had only four employees. This year, the company expects to add another 10 to 20 people to its current 45-person work force.

Prologic Corporation – CIBC Job Creation Achievement (Richmond, British Columbia)

Prologic Corporation is a leading provider of integrated core banking systems. With more than 240 customers in 28 countries, Prologic holds approximately 30 percent of the market for global, true client-server core banking systems.

Prologic's Ovation banking system benchmarks reveal that a bank with 8 million customers and 9 million accounts can run Ovation on four server computers. Banks of all sizes – from \$20 billion

in assets down to \$100 million – can meet all their computing requirements with Ovation.

Prologic has a workforce of more than 220 people worldwide and plans to add more employees by the end of March 1999.

Standard Aero (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Standard Aero is one of the largest independent gas turbine engine repair and overhaul companies in the world. With locations throughout Canada, the United States, Mexico, Europe and the Pacific Rim, and with customers in over 80 nations worldwide, Standard Aero has grown into a formidable presence in the international gas turbine engine industry.

Since 1993, Standard Aero's sales increased nearly 300 percent to \$327 million in 1997, with exports accounting for 80 percent. The company is projecting sales of close to \$400 million in 1998. Employment has more than doubled, to over 1550, in the last three years and is expected to reach 2000 over the next two years.

Vogue Pool Products (LaSalle, Quebec)

Vogue pools are well known for quality and endurance, as attested to by the hundreds of thousands of pools that have been installed and successfully withstood the most extreme conditions, from Canada's cold to the salty humidity of Florida and the Caribbean, or the dry desert heat of Saudi Arabia and Australia.

Founded nearly 30 years ago, in 1971, by its current president, Guy Lebuis, Vogue had sales of over \$26 million in 1997, with almost three quarters generated by exports. It now employs more than 120 people, a 90-percent increase in the last three years.

Last year, Vogue broke into western Europe in a big way, selling over 6500 pool kits, worth more than \$11 million, through major French do-it-yourself chains and Belgian, Swiss, German and Austrian pool distributors.

Further information is also available on the Canada Export Awards Internet site: <http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/awards>

News Release

October 6, 1998

No. 234

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the following diplomatic appointments:

Michael B. Phillips becomes Consul General in New York, with concurrent accreditation as Commissioner for Canada in Bermuda.

Ian McLean becomes Minister in Paris, with concurrent accreditation as Consul General of Canada in the Principality of Monaco.

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Biographical notes on the appointees are attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

(5:15 p.m. EDT)



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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Michael B. Phillips, (BA, University of Saskatchewan, 1962; LLB, University of Saskatchewan, 1964), joined the Department of External Affairs in 1965 and has served abroad in Addis Ababa, Dublin, Nairobi, and in London as Minister (Political and Public Affairs). From 1991 to 1995, he was Ambassador to Sweden. Since 1996, Mr. Phillips has been Ambassador to Ireland. In Ottawa, Mr. Phillips has held the positions of Assistant Director General of the Legal Bureau (1980-1981) and Director General of the Foreign Policy and General Communication Bureau (1988-1989). From 1989 to 1991, he served as Assistant Deputy Minister, United States Relations Branch, and again from 1995 to 1996 as Assistant Deputy Minister, United States Branch. He is married to Oonagh Mary Phillips and they have two children. Mr. Phillips succeeds George Haynal.

Ian McLean, (BA Honours, McGill University; MPA, Harvard University), joined the Department of External Affairs in 1968 and has served abroad in Saigon, Hanoi, Geneva, and in Paris as Counsellor (Economic). Since 1994, Mr. McLean has served as Consul General in Milan. In Ottawa, Mr. McLean has held the positions of Director, United States General Relations and Programs Division and Director General, United States Relations Branch. He is married to Anne Hald and they have one daughter. Mr. McLean succeeds John J. Noble.

News Release

October 7, 1998

No. 235

MARCHI ANNOUNCES NEW ADVISORY BOARD TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL MARKETING OF CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the establishment of a new Education Marketing Advisory Board, to be chaired by Sheldon Levy, President of Sheridan College. The announcement was made during a speech the Minister delivered to the second annual Canadian Education Industry Summit in Toronto.

"Education is now an industry," said Mr. Marchi. "Canada needs to approach the international marketplace for educational services with the same discipline and commitment that we bring to other sectors. I will look to the new advisory board for guidance on how to do that."

During his address, Minister Marchi also noted other measures to support the international marketing of Canadian educational services. A special support group has been set up in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to work with Canadian educational organizations on export marketing; a Web site has been created to provide a focal point on the Internet for information on government services and other intelligence in the international educational services marketplace; and a CD-ROM has been produced to provide comprehensive information on studying in Canada, including a virtual tour of 166 educational institutions.

"Canadian educational services are among the best in the world," said Mr. Marchi. "I am committed to opening doors for our educational organizations in world markets and to making sure that students in other countries know about the advantages of learning in Canada."

In 1996, students from abroad contributed \$2.7 billion to the Canadian economy. The international education marketplace is estimated at \$100 billion annually.

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A list of members of the Education Marketing Advisory Board is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman
Office of the Minister for International Trade
(613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

For further information, visit the Department's Educational Marketing Web site at: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/culture/educationmarketing/menu-e.htm>

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

(3:00 p.m. EDT)

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION MARKETING ADVISORY BOARD

Chair, Mr. Sheldon Levy, is President of Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.

Mr. Robert Giroux is President and CEO of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Gerald Brown is President of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Jim Fox is President of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Marc Dolgin is Executive Director of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. William Saywell is President of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC), Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mr. Terry Guest is President of the Canadian Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), Don Mills, Ontario.

Mr. Paul Kitchin is Executive Director of the National Association of Career Colleges (NACC), Brantford, Ontario.

Mr. Jay Jamieson is President of the Council of Second Language Programs in Canada (CSLP), North York, Ontario.

Ms. Sharon Curl is President of the Canadian Association of Private Language Schools (CAPLS), Vancouver, British Columbia.

Ms. Penny Milton is Executive Director of the Canadian Education Association (CEA), Toronto, Ontario.

Mr. Hugh Stephens is Assistant Deputy Minister of Communications and Policy Planning, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Ottawa, Ontario.

Ms. Martha Nixon is Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. Mary Jo Lynch is Senior Commerce Officer, Industry Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Thomas Townsend is Director General of the Learning and Literacy Directorate, Communications Branch, Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC), Hull, Québec.

Mr. Nick Norcott is Director, Education Institutional Program, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Hull, Québec.

Mme Anne Marrec is Director General of Télé-Université, Québec, Québec.

Dr. Ken Ozmon is President of St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Tom Wood is President of Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alberta.

N.B. Two positions are yet to be determined.

News Release

October 7, 1998

No. 236

CANADA ASKS WTO TO ESTABLISH DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PANEL TO RESOLVE DISPUTE WITH FRANCE ON CHRYBOTILE ASBESTOS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale today announced that Canada will ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) to establish a dispute settlement panel for the resolution of the dispute with France on the issue of chrysotile asbestos.

Canada's request for a panel will be on the agenda at the October 21 meeting of the WTO dispute settlement body. Canada will ask the panel to examine whether the French ban on chrysotile asbestos is consistent with France's international obligations. This decision was taken after a series of discussions with the Canadian government's partners in this issue.

"Last May, we formally requested and obtained consultations, the first step in the WTO dispute settlement process," said Mr. Marchi. "Unfortunately, this process did not enable Canada and France to find a mutually satisfactory resolution to this issue, and we believe that it is time to have the WTO rule on this dispute, which we have been attempting to resolve for the past two years."

"The Canadian government's objective is to maintain market access for chrysotile asbestos products, which can be used safely when the safe-use principle of the government's minerals and metals policy is respected," said Mr. Goodale.

Since January 1, 1997, France has prohibited the manufacture, import and sale of asbestos and products containing asbestos, with rare exceptions.

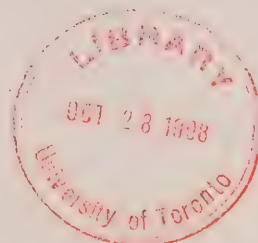
-30-

Two backgrounders are attached.



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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet
site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

(7:30 p.m. EDT)

Backgrounder

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ASBESTOS ISSUE

- In July 1996, the French government announced its intention to ban the importation and manufacture of asbestos as of January 1, 1997, based on a report by the Institut national sur la santé et la recherche médicale (INSERM).
- Health Canada, via the Royal Society of Canada, began a scientific independent review of the INSERM report, which was completed in early December 1996.
- On November 15, 1996, International Trade Minister Art Eggleton and Treasury Board President Marcel Massé met in Thetford Mines with community leaders and asbestos industry stakeholders.
- On November 18, 1996, French Prime Minister Juppé responded to Prime Minister Chrétien's letter on exemptions to the ban.
- On December 11, 1996, during a bilateral meeting in Singapore, International Trade Minister Eggleton discussed the asbestos ban at the European Union level with Sir Leon Brittan.
- On December 12, 1996, Prime Minister Chrétien sent a follow-up letter to French Prime Minister Alain Juppé.
- On January 1, 1997, the French ban was imposed.
- From January 9 to 13, 1997, International Trade Minister Eggleton raised his concerns about Korean market access asbestos issues with his counterpart during the Team Canada trip.
- On January 15, 1997, the Royal Society of Canada released its study on the French INSERM report. The report confirmed that France had overestimated the real threat of asbestos to the French population.
- On January 22 and 23, 1997, Prime Minister Chrétien again raised the asbestos issue with his French counterpart, Alain Juppé.
- On February 14, 1997, Canadian officials raised the French ban issue at a meeting of the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The European Union undertook to report back to the Committee justifying the ban.

- On March 3, 1997, Natural Resources Minister McLellan and Treasury Board President Massé held a press conference in Thetford Mines after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the federal government and the two Canadian asbestos producers on the responsible use of asbestos.
- March 15 to 20, 1997, three French journalists visited the Canadian asbestos industry on a fact-finding tour at the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), in co-operation with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).
- In June 1997, Canada again raised the French ban on asbestos issue in the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee.
- On June 18, 1997, the U.K. Environment Minister Angela Eagle announced her government's intention to ban the use and importation of chrysotile asbestos products.
- On June 20, 1997, Prime Minister Chrétien met with U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair at the Denver Summit to raise Canadian concerns about the United Kingdom's intentions to move toward banning the use of chrysotile asbestos.
- In July 1997, International Trade Minister Marchi wrote to domestic stakeholders to initiate consultations on WTO action on asbestos against France.
- On September 11, 1997, consultations on WTO action were held with stakeholders.
- September 14 to 16, 1997, NRCan sponsored a scientific workshop in Montréal on the health risks associated with the use of chrysotile and present-day chrysotile-based products.
- September 16 to 19, 1997, NRCan organized and co-sponsored an International Conference in Montréal on the safe and responsible use of chrysotile fibres. About 300 delegates from 45 countries were present at this event.
- On September 17, 1997, the Canadian government announced it would support a \$0.25-million training program to help implement the responsible-use policy for chrysotile asbestos in developing countries.
- On September 30, 1997, a Canadian delegation of asbestos experts met with officials from the U.K. Health and Safety Executive to exchange scientific information about the health risks associated with the use of chrysotile asbestos and to outline concerns regarding the use of substitutes.

- In late September 1997, the asbestos issue was raised by the French government with the Premier of Quebec in Paris.
- In October 1997, discussions were held between French and Canadian officials on possible steps to alleviate Canadian concerns over asbestos, including the initiation of the "Kouchner process."
- On October 22, 1997, Prime Minister Chrétien met U.K. Prime Minister Blair at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London, and suggested that further scientific discussions be held between the United Kingdom and Canada.
- On November 26, 1997, the Deputy Minister for International Trade met with stakeholders in Montréal to discuss WTO action on asbestos.
- December 18, 1997, a joint Canada/Quebec meeting was organized with government and industry representatives from six chrysotile-producing countries (Brazil, Canada, Russia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) to discuss joint actions in defence of chrysotile asbestos.
- On January 21, 1998, Prime Minister Chrétien wrote to Prime Minister Blair to assure him of Canada's intention to participate in the consultation process.
- In February 1998, the United Kingdom announced it would be pursuing consultations on workers' safety with respect to chrysotile as opposed to announcing its intentions to ban the use of asbestos.
- In January/February 1998, there were further consultations with stakeholders on WTO asbestos action.
- In February 1998, the European Union issued a directive which, for all intents and purposes, bans asbestos in brakes.
- On February 27, 1998, a diplomatic note was sent to Belgian authorities asking for justification of the February 3, 1998, decision to ban asbestos. This was followed by a meeting between Ambassador Jean-Paul Hubert and the Belgian Minister of State to raise concerns about the Belgian ban decision.
- In March 1998, Canada along with other chrysotile-producing countries signed an aide-mémoire on the responsible use of asbestos. This aide-mémoire was submitted by the participating Ambassadors to the European Union.
- In March, April and May 1998, DFAIT with the co-operation of

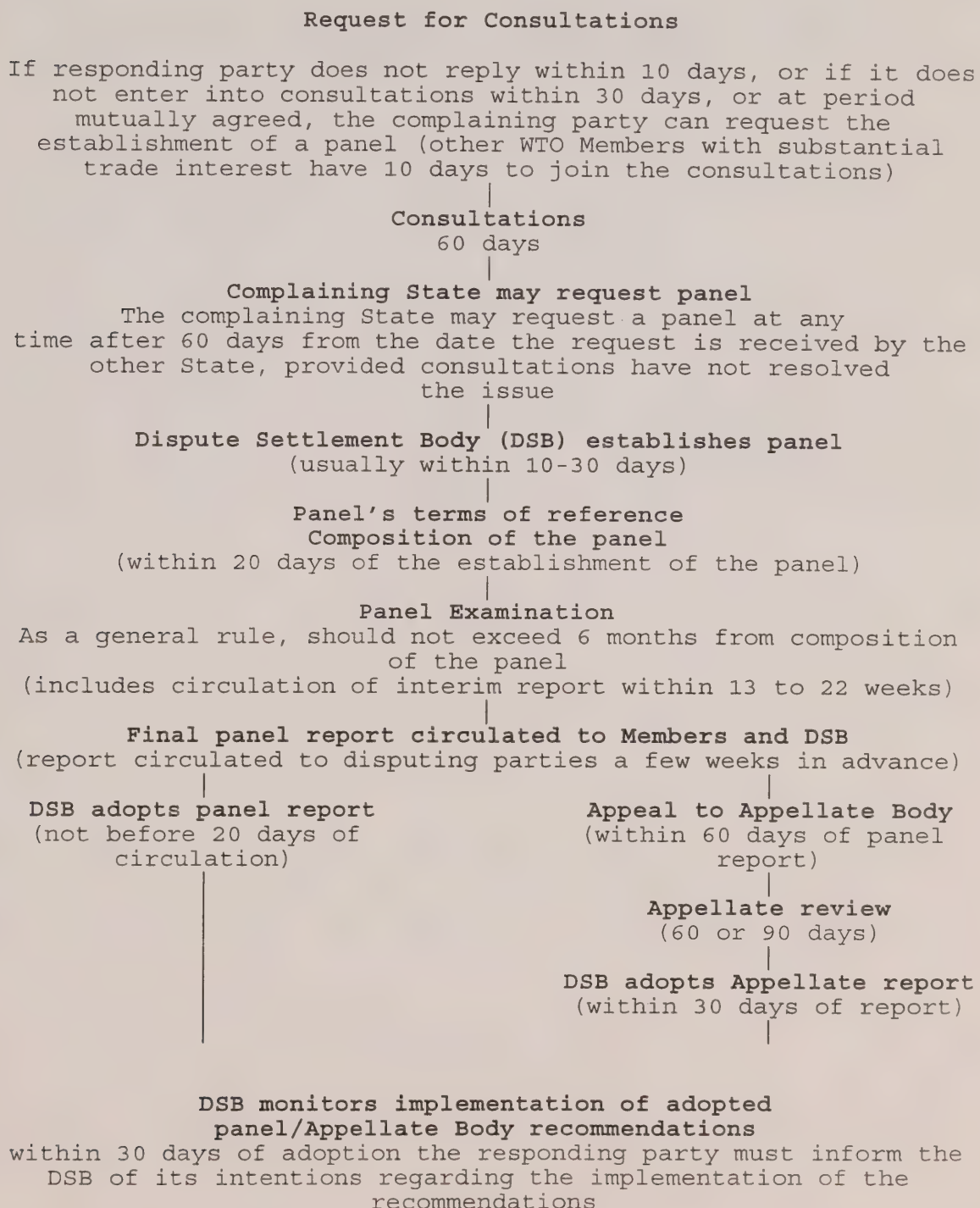
NRCan organized visits of the Canadian asbestos industry by Belgian, U.K. and Moroccan journalists. The purpose of these visits was to brief foreign journalists on the government's position on the safe use of chrysotile asbestos and to demonstrate the modern chrysotile asbestos industry.

- In April 1998, International Trade Minister Marchi met with his French counterpart, Minister Dondoux, and raised the asbestos issue.
- On April 21, 1998, Deputy Minister for International Trade, Rob Wright, met with U.K. Environment Minister Angela Eagle to discuss the asbestos file.
- On April 22, 1998, the Council of Europe adopted a report that called for a European ban of asbestos.
- In April 1998, French Professor Claude Got visited Canada, followed by France's Secretary of State Bernard Kouchner.
- In May 1998, Canadian concerns over asbestos were raised on various occasions at the political level in Europe.
- On May 14, 1998, Prime Minister Chrétien raised the issue of asbestos with his counterparts during the Canada/European Union Summit.
- On May 28, 1998, International Trade Minister Marchi instructed the Canadian mission in Geneva to formally request consultations, under the dispute settlement procedures of the WTO, on the measures taken by France to ban chrysotile asbestos.
- On July 8, 1998, Canada and France held formal consultations under the WTO dispute settlement process, but no resolution of the dispute was achieved.
- On July 29, 1998, France released Professor Claude Got's report, whose findings did not change the French government's decision to impose its ban on chrysotile asbestos.
- On August 18, 1998, International Trade Minister Marchi and Natural Resources Minister Goodale urged British authorities to weigh objectively the evidence favouring safe use of chrysotile asbestos in industrial products. The British government initiated public consultations following a health department report comparing the health risks of asbestos with substitute materials.

Backgrounder

FLOW CHART OF WTO TRADE DISPUTE

The purpose of this indicative flow chart is twofold. First, to highlight the main steps in the evolution of a trade dispute based on standard proceedings under the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding and, secondly, to provide a synoptical view of DSU time frames.



News Release

October 8, 1998

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 237

**AXWORTHY WELCOMES SUCCESSFUL CANADIAN
SECURITY COUNCIL BID**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed his great pleasure today on learning that Canada had succeeded in its bid to serve a two-year term on the United Nations (UN) Security Council starting January 1, 1999.

"This is a tremendous recognition of Canada's international stature by member states of the UN," said Mr. Axworthy. "By electing Canada to the Security Council, they have acknowledged Canada's solid international peace and security credentials. Canada's leadership on such initiatives as the anti-personnel mine ban, our work on the International Criminal Court, and our extensive history of participation in UN peacekeeping operations puts Canada in an excellent position to play an effective and constructive role on the Council and help prepare it to meet the challenges of the coming century."

The Security Council is the world's paramount body for safeguarding and promoting international peace and security. One of Canada's main objectives during its term will be to include human security concerns in Council discussions. Such concerns include conflict prevention, peacebuilding and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Canada will also work to make the Security Council more effective, transparent and responsive to the legitimate views of UN member states.

"I also want to congratulate the Netherlands on their successful bid," added the Minister. "Both the Netherlands and Greece were strong competitors for Canada. We look forward to working with all of our Security Council colleagues, including Argentina, Malaysia and Namibia, who were also elected today, on the many complex issues that will face us over the next two years."

Mr. Axworthy also expressed his great appreciation for the excellent work of Canadian diplomats in Ottawa, at our Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, and around the globe, who promoted Canada's candidacy over the past four years. He also paid special tribute to the contribution of his Cabinet colleagues, members of Parliament and special envoys.

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Canada was elected today on the first ballot with 131 votes; 177 UN member states were eligible to vote in the election held earlier today at the UN headquarters in New York.

The Security Council consists of five permanent members – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – and 10 elected members, whose seats are allocated among five regional groups for two-year terms each. Canada and the Netherlands were elected today to the two available seats in the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG).

-30-

A backgrounder is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

The United Nations (UN) Security Council is the UN body with primary responsibility for international peace and security issues. It is made up of five permanent members, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In addition, there are 10 elected members, whose seats are allocated among five regional groups: the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG); the Eastern Europe Group; the Africa Group; the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States; and the Asia Group. Elected members serve two-year terms, with five seats becoming available each year.

Canada, along with the Netherlands, is a member of WEOG, and both countries will serve on the Security Council from January 1, 1999, until December 31, 2000. Argentina, Malaysia and Namibia have also been elected to serve during this same term. Bahrain, Brazil, Gabon, The Gambia and Slovenia will serve on the Council until the end of 1999. All countries on the Council take turns holding the Council presidency in rotations of one-month periods. Canada will hold the presidency of the Security Council in February 1999 and again during the spring of 2000.

All member countries in good standing – countries not more than two years behind in their dues – are eligible to vote in Security Council elections. To win a seat, countries must secure at least two-thirds of the total votes cast. Canada achieved this by obtaining 131 out of a total of 176 votes.

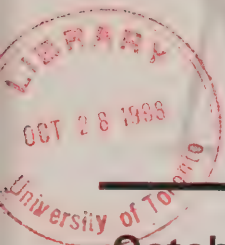
Canada has served on the Council about once every 10 years since the UN's establishment in 1945 – during 1948-49, 1958-59, 1967-68, 1977-78 and most recently in 1989-1990. This will be Canada's sixth term as a Security Council member.

Canada has always sought to maximize its international influence through participation in multilateral bodies, and, as such, our active involvement at the UN is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. Active membership on the Council is an important way to advance Canadian values within the organization and to demonstrate our commitment to the multilateral process.

One of Canada's goals is to see the Council become more responsive and adopt a broader, integrated approach to international peace and security, which in addition to addressing traditional security concerns would also focus increasing attention on human security. The notion of human security is made up of a broad range of concepts, including democratic development, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and good governance. Canada believes the Council must move to encompass this wider view of the root causes of conflicts in

order to address more effectively our new security environment, where threats to international peace and security arise more and more from conflicts within states than between them, and where these threats increasingly affect civilian populations.

Canada also supports reforms that would make the Council more effective, transparent and responsive to the legitimate concerns of the entire UN membership.



News Release

October 8, 1998

(1:45 p.m. EDT)

No. 238

AXWORTHY AND KILGOUR TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ACTION GROUP MEETING

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will attend the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting in London, England, on October 9, with Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour attending on October 8 and 9.

This will be the first CMAG meeting since the decision of Nigeria's Head of State, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, to free political prisoners and commit his government to free elections in 1999. Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Ignatius Olisemeka, will participate in a special session on October 9 to discuss Nigeria's current transition plan with CMAG members. CMAG members will also review recent developments in Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

"Canada is greatly encouraged by the progress made under Nigeria's program for transition to democracy and economic reform," said Mr. Axworthy. "We also welcome the presence of Nigeria's Foreign Minister, which further attests to Nigeria's commitment to change."

Last August, Canada decided to implement the following bilateral activities in response to Nigeria's constructive movement toward democracy: the re-establishment of a Canadian diplomatic presence in Nigeria; financial and technical aid in support of Nigeria's transition to democracy; and a visit to Nigeria in early September by Secretary of State Kilgour.

"The mission to Nigeria enabled me to review and discuss current developments with the new Nigerian government as well as with a broad cross-section of Nigerian society," said Mr. Kilgour. "Furthermore, I was able to see for myself the positive impact of the changes in Nigeria."

The decision to suspend Nigeria's full membership in the Commonwealth was made at the 1995 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), held in New Zealand. The decision followed two separate occasions on which Nigeria's military-led



government disregarded basic principles of democracy: the abrogation of the results of the 1993 presidential election and the execution of Nobel Laureate Ken Saro-Wiwa, which was carried out during the 1995 CHOGM.

CMAG was created in 1995, following the events in Nigeria, with a mandate to recommend collective Commonwealth responses to serious or persistent violations of the principles contained in the Commonwealth's Harare Declaration on human rights and democracy. CMAG consists of the eight member countries of Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Ghana, Malaysia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

- 30 -

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News Release

October 8, 1998

(4:45 p.m. EDT)

No. 239

CHAN TO VISIT INDONESIA

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan will visit Indonesia from October 11 to 14. Mr. Chan's visit will enable him to obtain firsthand information on the current situation in Indonesia regarding, in particular, human rights, the social impact of the current economic crisis and the political development in the country. He will also review the status of Canada's assistance package announced last April.

"Dramatic changes have taken place in Indonesia since April, when I visited Indonesia as the Prime Minister's special envoy," said Mr. Chan. "This visit attests to Canada's commitment to help bring about political and economic stability, the establishment of democracy and respect for human rights in Indonesia. We remain concerned about the human rights abuses and acts of violence that occurred in Indonesia last spring, especially against the ethnic Chinese and other minorities. My visit will be an opportunity to impress upon the Indonesian government the importance of investigating the matter thoroughly, to identify the perpetrators and provide redress and rehabilitation for the victims. Canada stands ready to help in any way it can to bring this about."

Mr. Chan hopes to pay a call on President Habibie. His program includes meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Justice, and a group of parliamentarians. Mr. Chan will also meet with grassroots organizations involved in victim assistance, with non-governmental organizations, such as the Legal Aid Foundation, and with academics and students. He is also scheduled to meet with Muchtar Pakpahan, the independent labour leader who has recently been released from prison, and with members of the business community to discuss how the economic crisis has affected them and their prospects for the future.

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News Release

October 8, 1998

(5:30 p.m. EDT)

No. 240

MARCHI TO VISIT ATLANTA TO PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENT

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will visit Atlanta, Georgia, on October 13 to 15, and will meet with prominent business and political leaders from the Atlanta area to promote trade and investment.

"Business has never been better for Canadians in the southeastern U.S. states. The southeast is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States and offers Canadian businesses tremendous opportunities," said Mr. Marchi. "In fact, Canadian exports to the United States are slated to grow by at least \$16 billion this year alone. We have every reason to be enthusiastic about our trading relationship with the U.S."

In his keynote luncheon speech to the Atlanta Women in International Trade, the Canadian American Society of the Southeastern United States and the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, Minister Marchi will point out to U.S. business leaders that this is a good time to do business in Canada.

"Canada has a great deal to offer the United States both in terms of trade and investment," said Mr. Marchi. "Our high technology is cutting-edge and great value for U.S. firms and consumers. Canada remains a stable, profitable and excellent location for U.S. investment."

In addition to promoting trade and investment during this trip, Minister Marchi will discuss hemispheric trade development in his luncheon speech to Latin American experts at the Carter Center. The Minister will also promote the Canada-U.S. Women's Trade Summit, which will be held in Toronto in May 1999.

During his trip, Minister Marchi will meet with Georgia Governor Zell Miller and Atlanta Mayor William Campbell. He will also participate in a roundtable discussion with students from the Georgia Institute of Technology, meet with Georgia Investment Agency officials, and speak to representatives of some of the 150 Canadian companies located in Georgia.

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A backgrounder on trade between Canada and Georgia is attached.

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Backgrounder

TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND GEORGIA

In 1989, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) went into effect, phasing out almost all tariffs and many non-tariff barriers to trade. Beginning in 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) opened the Mexican market to Canada and the United States. Two-way trade in goods, services and income between Canada and the United States totalled nearly \$509 billion in 1997, the largest bilateral exchange in the world.

Canada and the state of Georgia exchange over \$19 million worth of products every day of the year. In 1997, Canada sold Georgia \$3.28 billion worth of goods and, in turn, Georgia sold \$3.60 billion worth of goods to Canada. Amounting to \$6.88 billion, the trade provided consumers and industries with vital products while supporting 76 000 jobs on both sides of the border.

Trade is Growing under Free Trade Agreements

Trade between Georgia and Canada continues to grow steadily and significantly. In the nine years since the FTA took effect, Canadian exports to Georgia have almost tripled, from \$1.33 billion in 1989 to \$3.28 billion in 1997, along with similar increases in imports. Increases in trade have also been apparent since the NAFTA took effect, with \$4.46 billion of total Canada-Georgia trade in 1994 increasing to \$6.88 billion in 1997. Even in the most recent one-year period from 1996 to 1997, two-way trade jumped 22 percent.

Forestry Products

Canada's leading exports to Georgia are forestry products. In 1997, Canada supplied Georgia with \$825 million in forest products, which included \$481 million in softwood lumber and \$93 million worth of pulp. Forest products represented over 25 percent of Canada's sales to Georgia in 1997.

Transportation Equipment

The single largest sector of two-way trade between Canada and Georgia is transportation equipment. In 1997, Georgia sold Canada \$1.15 billion worth of transportation equipment, including \$208 million worth of engines and other motor vehicle parts, and \$783 million worth of automobiles. This was Georgia's biggest export sector, accounting for a third of the state's total sales to Canada. In turn, Canada sold Georgia \$472 million worth of transportation equipment in 1997, including \$226 million worth of motor vehicle engines and other parts, and \$118 million worth of aircraft. This was just over 14 percent of Canada's total exports to Georgia.

Other Notable Areas of Trade

Canada sold Georgia \$367 million in equipment and tools, which was over 11 percent of Canada's total exports to Georgia. This included \$77 million worth of electrical lighting and distribution equipment.

Canada sold \$263 million in machinery to Georgia, while Georgia supplied Canada with \$240 million worth of machinery, including \$28 million worth of wheel tractors.

Georgia sold Canada \$255 million worth of chemicals and allied products, including \$48 million worth of unshaped plastic materials.

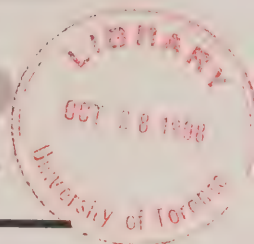
Canadians Go South – and Georgians Go North

Tourism adds millions to the trade between Georgia and Canada. In 1996, 373 000 Canadians visited Georgia for one night or more and spent nearly \$108 million, while 134 000 residents of Georgia spent almost \$100 million in Canada.

Year	Canadian Exports to Georgia	Canadian Imports from Georgia	Total
1989 (FTA)	\$1.33 billion	\$1.43 billion	\$2.76 billion
1994 (NAFTA)	\$2.23 billion	\$2.23 billion	\$4.46 billion
1997	\$3.28 billion	\$3.60 billion	\$6.88 billion

All figures are in Canadian dollars.

News Release



October 9, 1998 (12:15 p.m. EDT)

No. 241

FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EFTA COUNTRIES TO OPEN TRANSATLANTIC TRADE BRIDGE

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the launch of free trade negotiations with the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA): Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. The first negotiating session will be held in Ottawa, October 14 to 16.

"These negotiations, when completed, will lead to the first transatlantic trade agreement between Europe and North America," Mr. Marchi said. "It is another significant example of this government's commitment to opening world markets for Canadian goods and services, with the aim of increasing exports and creating more jobs for Canadians."

The Minister noted that the government has consulted extensively on this initiative, and the negotiations are being undertaken with the support of a broad cross-section of Canadians.

The possibility of a Canada-EFTA free trade agreement was first raised in October 1997 by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien during a speech in London, England. Since then, exploratory meetings have been held between officials. Canada has also signed trade and economic co-operation arrangements with Switzerland, Norway and Iceland — agreements that formed the framework for free trade negotiations with the EFTA.

An agreement with the EFTA would:

- reduce tariffs on exports of Canadian goods entering EFTA countries;
- put Canada on an equal footing with competitors that already have their own free trade arrangements with the EFTA;
- demonstrate the scope and potential for free transatlantic trade, thus complementing Canadian efforts to open markets in the 15-member European Union;
- enhance Canada's attractiveness as an investment location;



- complement and support Canadian efforts to remove trade barriers regionally and multilaterally; and
- offer the opportunity for more open and stable international investment rules and freer trade in services.

Canadian sectors that stand to benefit from a successful agreement include agricultural produce, lumber, machinery and a variety of manufacturing industries, ranging from plastic film and clothing to tents and motorcycles.

An agreement would benefit Canadian exporters by reducing tariffs on exports. Last year these exports were valued at \$1.2 billion, making the EFTA countries collectively the 15th-largest destination for Canadian exports (ranking between Mexico and Australia). Canada currently imports about \$4.3 billion in goods from the EFTA nations. EFTA countries are a source of \$4.7 billion in foreign investment. In turn, Canadian firms have invested about \$1.3 billion in EFTA.

"All four EFTA countries have highly developed economies and have in common with Canada a commitment to democratic government, human rights and a strong and free civil society," said Mr. Marchi.

Mr. Marchi said any agreement reached would not interfere with vital Canadian interests, including Canada's ability to set policy in culture, health care, education, social programs, the environment, labour standards, supply management and natural resources management.

Negotiations could be concluded as early as mid-1999.

-30-

A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

PROPOSED CANADIAN TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA)

Trade between Canada and the EFTA countries (Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein) was \$5.5 billion in 1997. Together they are Canada's 15th-largest destination for exports and a source of about \$4.7 billion in investment. This trade volume places EFTA countries, collectively, between Mexico and Australia in the ranks of Canada's trading partners. Two-way trade with EFTA countries is considerably larger than trade with Chile (\$717 million) and Israel (\$555 million), countries with which Canada has already negotiated free trade agreements. Canadian investment in the EFTA economies amounts to \$1.3 billion.

Benefits

A trade agreement would:

- reduce tariffs on exports of Canadian goods entering EFTA countries;
- put Canada on an equal footing with competitors that already have their own free trade arrangements with the EFTA;
- demonstrate the potential for free transatlantic trade, thereby complementing Canadian efforts to open markets in the 15-member European Union;
- enhance Canada's attractiveness as an investment location;
- complement and support Canadian efforts to remove trade barriers regionally and multilaterally; and
- offer the opportunity for more open and stable international investment rules and freer trade in services.

Barriers the Agreement Will Help Eliminate: Examples

Tariffs

- EFTA duties could be reduced, or lifted entirely, on Canadian products already exported to the EFTA, such as wheat, fish products, aluminum ingots, mustard seed, soy beans, food preparations, potatoes and machinery parts.
- The reduction or elimination of EFTA duties would open up new export opportunities for Canadian products not currently exported to EFTA countries.

- A free trade agreement would open up new opportunities for joint ventures between Canadian and EFTA firms and for increased foreign direct investment.
- Clear origin rules and customs procedures could be developed to make the agreement easy for exporters to use.

Investment Rules

- Transparent and predictable investment rules would give Canadian investors greater access to, and protection in, EFTA countries. Successful negotiations in this area would also enhance our efforts to further develop a framework of multilateral rules on investment at the World Trade Organization (WTO), similar to rules that we already have for trade in goods and services.

Services Rules

- Canadian exporters of services would benefit from rules that would provide greater transparency, certainty, predictability and enhanced market access.

Canada's Position

- Preliminary consultations have been held to discuss the possible framework and scope of an agreement.
- Canadian provinces, business associations, individual business interests and other groups, such as environmental and labour groups, have been advised of the government's plans, and their views have been actively sought on interests, objectives and sensitivities.
- In all negotiations, Canada will safeguard its vital interests in areas such as culture, health care, education, social programs, the environment, labour standards, programs for Aboriginal peoples, programs for minority groups and management of natural resources.
- Any agreement with the EFTA would be consistent with the rules of the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In fact, it would serve as one of several regional agreements that complement our efforts to improve world trade rules multilaterally under the auspices of the WTO.

Canada-EFTA Facts

- In 1997, Canada exported goods valued at \$770 million to Norway, \$430 million to Switzerland and \$15 million to Iceland.

- In 1997, Canada imported goods valued at \$3.3 billion from Norway, \$929 million from Switzerland and \$75 million from Iceland.
- Leading Canadian exports to EFTA countries include agrifood, aluminum and machinery. Leading Canadian imports from EFTA countries include chemicals, watches, machinery, steel and fish products.

The European Free Trade Association

- The European Free Trade Association was formed in 1960 as a group of countries that sought freer trade but chose not to submit to the greater disciplines of the European Economic Community, now the European Union (EU). A number of original EFTA members, including the United Kingdom, Denmark, Portugal, Sweden, Finland and Austria have since joined the EU. Norway declined EU membership in 1995 in a referendum.

News Release

October 12, 1998

(8:05 p.m. EDT)

No. 242

CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO MILITARY ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN KOSOVO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and National Defence Minister Art Eggleton welcomed initial signs of progress in U.S. Ambassador Holbrooke's negotiations aimed at achieving a peaceful solution to the Kosovo crisis. At the same time, the Ministers confirmed that Canada will participate in NATO air operations against Yugoslavia, should that be necessary, to end the conflict there and prevent a humanitarian disaster.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199, adopted on September 23, imposed clear obligations: that forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) cease attacking civilians; that the FRY withdraw forces used to oppress civilians; that FRY authorities begin meaningful negotiations with Kosovar political leaders; that the Kosovars refrain from violence and negotiate; that the delivery of humanitarian assistance be facilitated; and that international observers enjoy freedom of movement.

"The Yugoslav government has failed to comply with the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199," said Mr. Axworthy. "The United Nations Secretary-General has appealed to the international community to undertake urgent steps to prevent a humanitarian disaster in Kosovo. Regrettably, despite our repeated efforts, it has proven impossible at this time for the Security Council to agree on further action. Canada, like others, still hopes for a diplomatic solution, but believes that NATO's decision today can contribute to ending the conflict and avoiding an even greater human tragedy."

"Following the NATO decision, and with the support of Parliament, the Government of Canada has committed six CF-18 fighter aircraft, a KC-130 tanker aircraft and approximately 180 military personnel to this multinational operation," Mr. Eggleton said. "Canada's decision to participate with our allies in military action reflects our deep concern not only for international security, but also for the lives of tens of thousands of innocent people in Kosovo."



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The Canadian Forces personnel and six CF-18 fighter aircraft based in Aviano, Italy, have been taking part in flights over Bosnia to enforce the NATO no-fly zone and support NATO ground forces. They have also participated in two NATO Partnership for Peace exercises to demonstrate NATO's resolve to support stability in the region.

The CF-18 fighter aircraft and crews were pre-positioned in Italy in June, 1998, to ensure that Canada would be in a position to participate in NATO's response to the situation in Kosovo, if diplomatic efforts alone failed to produce results. The KC-130 has been on stand-by for possible deployment to the mission, and is expected to depart when requested by NATO.

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News Release

October 14, 1998

(3:30 p.m. EDT)

No. 243

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS SHOOTING DOWN OF CONGO AIRLINES JET AND URGES AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the recent shooting down of a Congo Airlines jet near the town of Kindu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and urged all parties to renew immediately negotiations to achieve a cease-fire in the conflict. He also expressed deep concern at this further loss of life and at indications that ethnic hatred and acts of violence are on the rise in the region.

"The use of missiles represents an intensification of the fighting, with its possibility of further deterioration, making it even more urgent for all parties to resume negotiations under the leadership of African leaders for a cessation of hostilities," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada remains deeply concerned by the lack of movement in the negotiations."

The Minister also underlined his previous calls for action by the international community to support African efforts in the search for an immediate cease-fire, the withdrawal of foreign troops and a negotiated settlement to the current dispute that will ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Congo and its neighbours.

"Civilian populations are once again the principal victims in this conflict, which has sparked civilian acts of ethnic violence and discrimination," added Mr. Axworthy. "Canada reminds all parties that they will be held fully accountable for any breach in humanitarian law and human rights."

The downing of the Congo Airlines commercial jet is the latest major development in the conflict, in which forces loyal to the Congolese government have been opposed by rebel fighters since August 2.

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News Release

October 19, 1998

(12.05 p.m. EDT)

No. 244

MINISTER AXWORTHY TO ATTEND OSCE COUNCIL AND EU MEETINGS IN VIENNA AND TO RECEIVE THE NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE IN LISBON

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will be in Vienna, Austria, on October 21 and 22, and in Lisbon, Portugal, on October 23 and 24.

In Vienna, on October 22, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Giancarlo Aragona and Adam Kobieracki, respectively the Secretary-General and Permanent Council Ambassador of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), before addressing the OSCE Permanent Council.

"My discussions with OSCE Council members will provide necessary insight on how Canada can most effectively participate in international efforts to resolve the crisis in Kosovo," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada is firmly engaged in the pursuit of a constructive and permanent solution to this conflict."

Following his meeting with the OSCE Council, Minister Axworthy will attend a Canada-European Union (EU) ministerial meeting, where he will seek EU co-operation on human security issues and discuss the implementation of the Canada-EU Action Plan and elements of the next Canada-EU summit, as well as the global economic situation, the West Balkans and Russia. Launched in December 1996, the Canada-EU Action Plan is designed to help further advance mutual co-operation and interests and includes initiatives such as semi-annual Canada-EU summits. The next Canada-EU summit is to be held in Canada.

Later the same day, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel, his Austrian counterpart, and take part in an Austria-Canada ministerial round table on international human security issues. The round table discussions will focus on the protection of children (including children in armed conflict, child labour and child pornography on the Internet) and the protection of civilian populations, where issues will include landmines and the proliferation of small arms.

On October 23, in Lisbon, Minister Axworthy is scheduled to meet with the President of Portugal, Mr. Jorge Sampaio, as well as with the former President, Mr. Mario



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Soares. The Minister will also meet with his Portuguese counterpart, Foreign Minister Jaime Gama, to discuss bilateral issues between Canada and Portugal, as well as broader issues of common and international interest, such as peace and security, the promotion of human rights and democracy, the ban on landmines and the proliferation of small arms.

Later the same day, Mr. Axworthy will attend a ceremony at the Portuguese Parliament, where he will be awarded the Council of Europe's North-South prize, in recognition of his leading role in securing a global ban on landmines.

"I am very honoured to receive this award," said Mr. Axworthy. "I am particularly privileged to be sharing it with Mrs. Graça Machel, whose work on behalf of children's rights worldwide is exemplary. Canada shares many of Mrs. Machel's concerns and goals, as reflected in the strong human security agenda we are entrenching in Canada's foreign policy. Our work on banning anti-personnel mines is an example of our commitment to this agenda, and I am very pleased to have that commitment recognized by the Council of Europe's North-South Centre."

The North-South prize is awarded annually to two people — one each from the northern and southern hemispheres — who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in human rights protection and the struggle for pluralist democracy. Recipients are selected by a jury of eminent Europeans and Africans at the Council of Europe's North-South Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity. Mr. Axworthy's co-recipient is Mrs. Graça Machel, a South African children's rights activist, who recently visited Canada with her husband, President Nelson Mandela. Last year's recipients were Mrs. Mary Robinson, then-President of Ireland, and former Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

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News Release

October 20, 1998

(1:30 p.m. EDT)

No. 245

MINISTERS WELCOME WTO APPEAL REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN BAN OF CANADIAN SALMON

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Fisheries and Oceans Minister David Anderson today welcomed a report by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body confirming that Australia's ban on imports of Canadian salmon violates Australia's international trade obligations.

The Appellate Body upheld the conclusions of a WTO panel report released in June 1998 that Australia's ban on imports of Canadian fresh, chilled and frozen salmon is contrary to its obligations under the WTO Agreement.

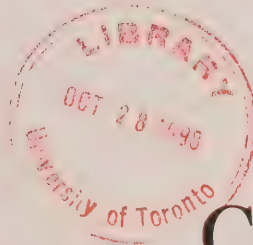
"It is an important decision in this long-standing dispute," Minister Marchi said. "It demonstrates, once again, the importance of the WTO dispute settlement process in resolving trade irritants. I expect Australia to act quickly on the Appellate Body findings and to lift its ban on imports of Canadian salmon."

"This decision is very good news for our salmon industry on both coasts," Mr. Anderson said. "We look forward to the reopening of the Australian market for both wild and cultured salmon from Canada, which has been closed for many years. This will allow our salmon producers to maximize the financial returns from their exports."

Australia imposed its ban on imports of Canadian salmon in 1975. After years of unsuccessful bilateral efforts to resolve the dispute, Canada took the matter to the WTO. A WTO dispute settlement panel was established on April 10, 1997.

After the WTO Dispute Settlement Body adopts the Appellate Body report, Australia will have 30 days to indicate how it intends to implement the WTO findings.

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News Release

October 26, 1998

(5:50 p.m. EST)

No. 246

AXWORTHY AND CHAN MEET WITH EAST TIMORESE ACTIVIST JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan met today with East Timorese activist and co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. José Ramos-Horta, to discuss the situation in East Timor.

"Dr. Ramos-Horta and I spoke about the progress being made under the UN trilateral talks between Portugal and Indonesia. We also spoke about how Canada might be able to help the East Timorese in preparing for their future," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada is strongly supportive of the UN talks, and we encourage all parties to seize the current unparalleled opportunity to reach a lasting political resolution with respect to East Timor. And we firmly believe that the active participation of the East Timorese themselves is essential to the successful negotiation of such a resolution."

Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau announced that Canada would provide financial support to the next round of the All Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue taking place October 30 in Austria. Canada will contribute \$30 000 to the Dialogue through the Canadian International Development Agency. This is additional to the financial support of \$60 000 provided to previous rounds of the Dialogue.

"Canada is the third-largest donor in East Timor, with \$1.1 million in aid provided each year," said Minister Marleau. "This aid is channelled through NGOs and supports grassroots organizations in the areas of agriculture, education and training, health and nutrition and women's programs."

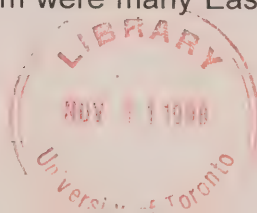
On his recent visit to Indonesia, Secretary of State Raymond Chan met with President Habibie, and discussed the situation in East Timor with Foreign Affairs Minister Alatas and imprisoned East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao.

"President Habibie has offered wide-ranging autonomy to the territory, and discussions are proceeding on that basis," said Mr. Chan. "We welcome this and the other changes that have occurred in Indonesia in recent months, including the release of political prisoners, among whom were many East Timorese. We encourage



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the Government of Indonesia to continue to release political prisoners, including Xanana Gusmao."

East Timor, with a population of 800 000, is a former colony of Portugal. It was annexed as the 27th province of Indonesia in 1976. Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize with Dr. Ramos-Horta, is also a key player in ongoing talks on the future of East Timor.

- 30 -

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News Release

October 27, 1998

(4:45 p.m. EST)

No. 247

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abel Matutes, will visit Ottawa from October 27 to 29. This will be Mr. Matutes' first official visit as Spanish Foreign Minister.

"Our meeting will focus on developments in various areas that have taken place in Canada-Spain relations since the fisheries crisis in 1995," said Minister Axworthy. "We will discuss the status of bilateral relations, including trade and investment links, cultural and academic relations, and the establishment of regular senior-level consultations to review bilateral and international issues such as the situation in Kosovo and in Bosnia, as well as both countries' links with countries of the Americas."

As Canada and Spain are respectively the ninth- and tenth-largest economies in the world, the potential for growth in bilateral trade and investment is considerable, and consequently, it is important that both countries explore new ways to tap into this potential. While in Ottawa, Mr. Matutes will also meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Speaker of the Senate Gildas Molgat, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion.

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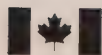
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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News Release

October 29, 1998

(1:15 p.m. EST)

No. 248

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OPENS DOORS TO CANADIANS

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will open its doors to Canadians on November 2 to mark a quarter-century in the Lester B. Pearson Building and to celebrate the contribution that its staff makes to Canada's public life.

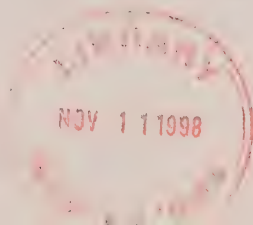
The Open House, the Department's first, will allow citizens to meet the people who represent their interests around the world, and to learn more about Canada's busy and constructive agenda in foreign affairs, international trade and development. The Department has more than 7000 employees working in Ottawa and at 150 embassies and consulates around the world.

"Canadians are citizens of the world, and through our efforts we are helping to bring together a truly global community," said Minister Axworthy. We want this Open House to be the catalyst to forging a new, closer relationship with the Canadian public. Building that relationship will help us better represent their hopes and values around the world."

"Governments sometimes get accustomed to working behind the scenes," said International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi. "That now has to change. We must engage Canadians in a more consistent, structured manner. Only by working together can we build a more prosperous Canada."

The Department's three Ministers and two Secretaries of State will be present at the Open House: Minister Axworthy; Minister Marchi; Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau; Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

Visitors are invited in the morning to an official ceremony in the Cadieux auditorium, during which contributions will be made to a departmental time capsule before it is sealed for future generations to peruse. Guests will also be able to tour more than



three dozen exhibits illustrating the Department's work, and to have their Open House Passports stamped at every stop on their tour.

For those who can't attend the Open House, a live Internet broadcast of many events and activities will be available on the Department's Web site (see address below).

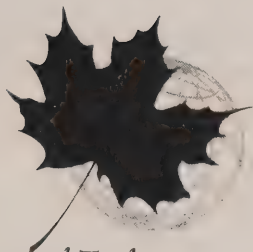
- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



News Release

International Trade
Commerce international

November 2, 1998

(12:00 p.m. EST)

No. 249

CANADA-ALGERIA BILATERAL COMMISSION TO MEET IN OTTAWA

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that the Canada-Algeria Bilateral Commission is meeting in Ottawa, November 2 and 3.

"The Algerian market offers Canadian entrepreneurs good partnership and investment opportunities, and I urge them to take an active interest in this market," said Minister Marchi, who is co-chairing the meeting.

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Bouchouart is leading the Algerian delegation. He is accompanied by representatives of the Government of Algeria and business people.

"I am particularly pleased to co-chair for the first time this Bilateral Commission meeting with our largest trading partner in North Africa and the Middle East," said Mr. Marchi.

In 1997, Canada's exports to Algeria, mainly wheat and dairy products, totalled \$622 million. Canada's imports from Algeria, mainly petroleum products, totalled \$610 million. Canada also exports services of considerable value to Algeria.

After the Commission meeting, the Algerian delegation will be in Montreal November 4 and 5 to meet representatives of the business community. The Canada-Algeria Bilateral Commission has a mandate to review all of our relations, particularly trade relations.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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News Release

November 2, 1998

(4:00 p.m. EST)

No. 250

AXWORTHY LAUNCHES MAGAZINE ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS AT DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE'S FIRST OPEN HOUSE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced initiatives today aimed at reaching out to Canadians and making them more involved in Canada's foreign policy. The announcement came during the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's first Open House.

This commitment to engage Canadians includes the launch of *Canada World View*, a new magazine introducing readers to a Canadian perspective on global affairs; and a more active, structured approach to involving citizens in major issues, such as Canada's global efforts to ban landmines.

"This new approach demonstrates how this Department intends to better marry its global, outward focus with its basic mandate to reflect the values and aspirations of Canadians," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Canada is playing an exciting, constructive role in the world, but we have only begun to tap the energy of the Canadian people in helping our country meet its goals."

Canada World View will update readers on important foreign policy news and report on Canadian initiatives around the world. It will be published four times a year, and is also available at the following Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-magazine).

Each issue will focus on a central theme in Canadian foreign policy. The first issue highlights human rights and includes a profile of a non-governmental organization (NGO), Human Rights Internet (HRI); a profile of John Peters Humphrey, the Canadian who wrote the first draft of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and various other articles focusing on the promotion of human rights, development and international justice.

Canada World View complements larger efforts to make the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade more relevant and recognizable to Canadians.

In September 1998, the Government announced an outreach campaign to engage the Canadian public, particularly youth, in meeting the continuing challenges posed by



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anti-personnel (AP) mines. Part of this campaign involves the creation of a team of Youth Mine Action Ambassadors who will travel throughout their region to raise awareness of the AP mine issue. Another initiative is the development of a CD-ROM that highlights important milestones in the adoption of the Convention banning AP mines. The campaign also includes the creation of the Canadian Landmine Action Fund, which was conceived and developed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Mines Action Canada, an NGO.

Other initiatives to involve Canadians in a range of foreign policy issues will include more frequent speaking tours in Canada by Canadian ambassadors and other senior officials, and more focus on rural and small-town communities.

The Department is also looking at ways to utilize advanced technology to disseminate information to Canadians across the country. Work is underway on a project to build a teaching resource for the Internet to inform students of Canadian accomplishments in the world and to better inform them of Canada's foreign relations.

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News Release

November 3, 1998

(11:30 a.m. EST)

No. 251

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Lucienne Robillard today announced that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, will make an official visit to Canada from November 4 to 6.

While in Ottawa, on November 4 and 5, the High Commissioner will meet with Ministers Axworthy and Robillard, as well as with Minister for International Co-operation and Minister Responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau and Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton.

"Of all the challenges to global human security, refugee issues rank among the most serious," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada recognizes and supports the work of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and acknowledges the tremendous contribution Mrs. Ogata has made personally as a champion for refugees everywhere. Canada has actively worked with the High Commissioner over the years to address the needs of refugees, but has also worked to find peaceful solutions to the political upheavals and civil conflicts that are so often at the root of refugee crises."

"Canada and the UNHCR believe that the best way to resolve the problems facing refugees is to ensure that they can return safely to their homes. But we also recognize that for some refugees, resettlement in a third country is the preferred option," said Madame Robillard.

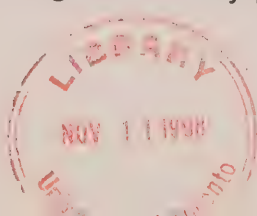
Madame Robillard, who also met with Mrs. Ogata and her officials in Geneva in September, highlighted Canada's present renewal of our immigration and refugee legislation. "We are always seeking to improve our systems, and we have consulted UNHCR early in this process and much value its views. I am looking forward to friendly and productive exchanges with the High Commissioner on all common concerns, including the pressures on our refugee determination system caused by migrant trafficking of non-genuine refugee claimants."

"Through CIDA, Canada is a strong supporter of the UNHCR, helping bring timely and critical humanitarian assistance to refugees in many parts of the world," said



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Madame Marleau. "CIDA has provided \$1.2 million to the UNHCR in recent months to assist those affected by the conflict in Kosovo. I look forward to Mrs. Ogata's assessment of the humanitarian situation there and in other places of conflict."

"The Canadian Forces have played a prominent role in humanitarian assistance operations in the former Yugoslavia, the Great Lakes region of Africa and in many other parts of the world," said Mr. Eggleton. "We consider this to be an important part of our contribution to the maintenance of peace, security and global stability. Canadian Forces personnel have served alongside the UNHCR in what have often been extremely difficult and inhospitable circumstances. We value our relationship and will continue to work together for the betterment of disadvantaged peoples throughout the world."

In Ottawa, Mrs. Ogata will also meet with senior government officials and representatives of the Immigration and Refugee Board. Mrs. Ogata will review current international refugee situations, discuss Canadian refugee policies and programs and outline her goals for her third mandate as High Commissioner.

On the evening of November 4, Mrs. Ogata will deliver the first annual lecture of the National Committee for Humanitarian Law in a public event at the University of Ottawa.

On November 6, Mrs. Ogata travels to Toronto where she will visit the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture and take part in a roundtable discussion at York University's Centre for Refugee Studies.

Mrs. Ogata's third term as High Commissioner will conclude on December 31, 2000. The High Commission, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is mandated to protect and assist refugees and promote durable solutions to their problems. This is Mrs. Ogata's second official visit to Canada since becoming High Commissioner for Refugees in 1989.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Éric Tétrault
Office of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
(613) 954-1064

André Doren
Office of the Minister for International Co-operation and
Minister responsible for La Francophonie
(819) 997-6919

Nicole Bourget
Office of the Minister of National Defence
(613) 996-3100

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

November 3, 1998

(2:30 p.m. EST)

No. 252

AXWORTHY STRONGLY CONDEMNS IRAQ'S VIOLATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today strongly condemned Iraq's decision on October 31, 1998, to halt co-operation with United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspectors.

"Canada fully supports the UN Security Council's November 1 resolution denouncing this action as a 'flagrant violation' of UN resolutions," said Mr. Axworthy. "We join the Council in calling upon Iraq to rescind its decision immediately and unconditionally."

Iraq's action undermines recent efforts by the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General to begin a comprehensive review process aimed at lifting sanctions against Iraq, once Iraq had resumed full co-operation with UN inspectors.

"Iraq must recognize that the only road to lifting sanctions is through co-operation with UNSCOM and compliance with UN resolutions," added Minister Axworthy.

Canada stands behind UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and values the commitment and dedication of their inspectors in carrying out a difficult task. UNSCOM's role is central to ensuring that Iraq complies with its disarmament obligations.

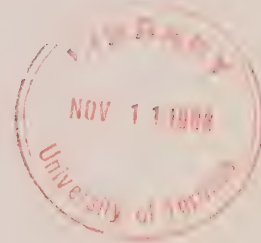
Once Iraq resumes its full co-operation with UNSCOM and the IAEA, the UN remains ready to implement a comprehensive review of Iraq's compliance with relevant UN resolutions.

- 30 -

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News Release

November 3, 1998

(4:00 p.m. EST)

No. 253

MARCHI ANNOUNCES EDC LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that Gowling, Strathy & Henderson (Gowlings) has been awarded a contract to review the provisions and operations of the Export Development Act. The contract was awarded following a competitive bidding process.

The review comes five years after the most recent amendments to the Act which governs the activities of EDC (Export Development Corporation).

"EDC is an integral part of Canada's export promotion efforts," said Minister Marchi. "This review process is a timely opportunity to ensure the agency continues to meet Canadian public policy objectives in a global context."

Amendments made to broaden the terms of the Export Development Act in 1993 included a requirement that the Minister for International Trade, in consultation with the Minister of Finance, report to Parliament on these changes by June 1999. The purpose of the review is to provide advice and recommendations to Parliament on options to better assist Canadian companies to succeed in the export marketplace.

In order to examine issues related to the Canadian trade financing system and EDC's role in both domestic and international marketplaces, the reviewer will conduct a survey of EDC clients and prospective clients and will undertake stakeholder consultations across Canada as follows:

Halifax	November 19
Winnipeg	November 23
Calgary	November 24-25
Vancouver	November 26-27
Montreal	November 30-December 1
Toronto	December 7-8
Ottawa	December 14-15



To participate in the consultation process, contact Guy David, Gowling, Strathy & Henderson, at: telephone (613) 786-0132; fax (613) 563-9869; or through the Internet (<http://www.gowlings.com>).

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Background

THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT ACT AND THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) was created under the Export Development Act of 1969 as an instrument of Canadian public policy to support and develop trade between Canada and other countries.

As a financially self-sustaining agency, EDC is an integral part of Canada's trade promotion infrastructure. The Agency works in close co-operation with domestic and international financial institutions including development banks and others with extensive linkages to world markets.

In 1997, EDC backed 3711 Canadian exporters in more than 145 global markets and did a record business volume of \$28 billion — a 30 percent increase over the previous year. In recent years, EDC has significantly increased its small business base and currently supports more than 3200 small and medium-sized businesses in 133 export markets.

The Export Development Act was amended in June 1993 to broaden EDC's operating mandate. The amendments included a requirement to review the results of these changes in five years time. To meet the review requirement, the Minister for International Trade issued a public request for proposals for a consultant to assist with the review process. A contractor has been selected and the review process is underway.

The contractor will consult Canadian exporters and investors to gather views on trends in export financing and to assess the capacity of the existing financial system to meet the needs of Canadian exporters. The process will consider EDC's use of its mandate to support the government's broader public policy agenda including support for small business, expanding the export base, and support for sustainable development and human rights. The review will also look outside Canada in order to compare Canada's position relative to its international competitors.

The contractor will engage in stakeholder consultations and will conduct focus groups during November and December. The deadline for written submissions is December 21.

The review process will be guided by a Steering Committee co-chaired by senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of Finance. A final report with recommendations will be submitted to the Minister for International Trade by the end of March.

The ultimate goal of the review is to provide recommendations to Parliament on an appropriate role for EDC as an integral part of Canada's trade promotion network and to lay the groundwork for any necessary changes to the Export Development Act.

November 1998

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News Release

November 4, 1998

(2:15 p.m. EST)

No. 254

CANADA ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTION TO ASIA-PACIFIC PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA PROJECT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced a Canadian contribution of \$50 000 to fund the Asia-Pacific Peoples' Assembly (APPA) and a forum co-hosted by the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) during the upcoming 1998 APEC Leaders Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The 1998 Asia-Pacific Peoples' Assembly (APPA) is a conference of non-governmental organizations to be held from November 10 to 15 in advance of the APEC Leaders Meeting, November 16 to 18. The Vancouver-based IMPACS will co-host with the Malaysian-based Asian Institute for Development Communications (AIDCOM) the first meeting of the International Monitoring Group (IMG) on Trade and Media on November 13.

"As a significant gathering of groups interested in good governance, human rights and the rule of law, I look forward to the success of the APPA and the IMG meeting," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada is dedicated to furthering discussions on various mechanisms to engage in formal consultation and dialogue with civil society throughout Asia-Pacific."

More than 300 participants from the Asia-Pacific region are expected to attend APPA. This year's assembly will address the impact of the current financial crisis on the Asian and other economies, and review progress on civil society issues on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

International Trade Minister Marchi commended the organizers of the Peoples' Assembly. "It is vital that citizens interested in the opportunities and challenges of trade and investment liberalization express their views and provide their advice to governments."

The IMG meeting will review the state of free media within APEC, monitor the impact of trade liberalization on media, and brief media and APEC officials on recommendations to advance free media in the region.



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The Canadian contribution of \$25 000 to APPA is for documentation expenses including publications, flyers and registration packages, while the \$25 000 allocated to IMPACS is to offset costs associated with the co-ordination of the IMG meeting. In addition, CIDA provided \$60 000 to support an international conference on the engagement of civil society in the APEC process, held on October 5 in Malaysia.

Leaders from 21 Pacific Rim economies will meet from November 16 to 18 in Kuala Lumpur for the sixth APEC Economic Leaders Meeting. The leaders meeting will be preceded on November 14 and 15 by the tenth meeting of APEC ministers responsible for international trade and for foreign affairs, which Minister Axworthy and Minister Marchi will attend. Both meetings will include participation, for the first time, of three new APEC members: Peru, Russia, and Vietnam.

Funding for this contribution was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

November 4, 1998

(6:00 p.m. EST)

No. 255

MINISTERS HIGHLIGHT SUCCESS OF YOUTH INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DURING CANADA CAREER WEEK

On the occasion of Canada Career Week, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi highlighted the success of the Youth International Internship Program (YIIP) in launching the international careers of more than a thousand young Canadians. The YIIP is part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES).

"The Youth International Internship Program is a prime example of the Government's commitment to help Canada's youth gain valuable work experience, both at home and abroad," said Mr. Axworthy. "The young people who participated have proven to be effective, engaged members of our increasingly global society. Their talent and dynamism have brought credit to the reputation of Canada's youth."

To mark Canada Career Week, the Ministers met with youth participants, implementing organizations and employers to congratulate them on their successful program, and to celebrate the launch of international careers for the former interns. The Ministers also had an opportunity to view firsthand some examples of the fine work done by the youth interns.

"Without the overseas connections and hard work of the Department's partners who arranged the placements, this program would not have been possible," said Mr. Marchi. "We would particularly like to thank the employers and host organizations who provided financial support or in-kind contributions to make these internships a success."

The internships support the three main pillars of Canadian foreign policy — international trade (42%), peacebuilding (42%) and culture (16%). In terms of geographic distribution, 31% took place in Europe, 16% in Asia, 15% in Africa and the Middle East, 14% in the United States, 11% in Latin America and 12% in Canada, focusing on international issues.



Results indicate that about 78% of the interns found work upon completion of their internships. Another 12% returned to school and the remaining 10% had job prospects or were looking for work.

Launched in February 1997, youth international internship programs are delivered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, Human Resources Development Canada, Environment Canada, Industry Canada, and Canadian Heritage. Funding is built into the existing fiscal framework.

For further information on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Youth International Internship Program call:

(613) 944-2415 in the Ottawa/Hull area or
1-800-559-2888 from other areas of Canada;

or consult the Department's Youth Web site at:
(www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/youth/menu.htm).

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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International Trade
Commerce international

News Release

November 5, 1998

(11:00 a.m. EST)

No. 256

MARCHI INVITES CANADIANS, HEMISPHERE TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today that citizens of countries involved in Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations are invited to submit their views on the FTAA to a special committee set up to receive input from civil society.

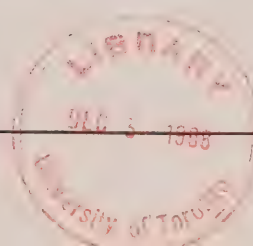
"The FTAA is a historic project that will affect all our citizens," said Minister Marchi. "This process gives Canadians and other citizens of the hemisphere an added voice in the negotiations, and will help build confidence in our efforts to liberalize trade in the hemisphere and beyond. It's therefore fitting that we reach out to our citizens and hear about their views and aspirations."

Canada was instrumental in the establishment of the FTAA Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society at the last meeting of the hemisphere's trade ministers in San José, Costa Rica, in March 1998. The Committee will receive views from a wide cross-section of society — business, labour, environmental and academic groups — on how the trade-related aspects of the FTAA should evolve.

The Committee is open to receive written submission from members of the public beginning on November 1, 1998. The Committee's official invitation lays out specific procedures for these submissions and provides deadlines.

The Committee also expects that submissions from civil society should focus on trade matters as outlined in the San José Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration is available on the Department's official Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca) under the "Trade Agreements/Multilateral Regional Trade Agreements and Organizations" heading.

The Committee's work complements Canada's domestic plans to consult its citizens on the FTAA and other major initiatives. In order to consider submissions before the 1999 FTAA trade ministerial meeting, the Committee has set a deadline of the end of



March 1999. The Committee will continue to consider the views of the hemisphere's citizens, however, throughout negotiations on the FTAA.

- 30 -

The Committee's official invitation is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

OPEN INVITATION TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN FTAA PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. Recognizing the interests and concerns expressed relating to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by different sectors of society, and consistent with the principle of transparency in the FTAA negotiating process, Ministers Responsible for Trade of the Hemisphere, as agreed in the San José Ministerial Declaration, noted the contribution of "business and other sectors of production, labour, environmental, and academic groups", and encouraged "these and other sectors of civil societies to present their views on trade matters in a constructive manner." For this purpose, they established a Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society with the objective of receiving, analyzing and presenting the range of views of civil society for their consideration.

2. The Committee extends an invitation to civil society to submit their views, as of November 1, 1998, in writing, by mail, fax, electronic mail or courier service.

3. Each submission will:

- identify the person and/or organization, with their address, presenting the point of view;
- refer to trade matters related to the FTAA process, using the San José Ministerial Declaration as the frame of reference;
- be in concise written form, in one of the official FTAA languages (Spanish, English, French, Portuguese);
- contain an executive summary of not more than two pages, including reference to the trade matters it refers to and the way the views contribute to the FTAA process, as stipulated in the San José Ministerial Declaration.
- be sent directly to the Chairman of the Committee of Government Representatives on Civil Society Participation, at the following address:

c/o Tripartite Committee (Ref. Civil Society)
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
(ECLAC)

1825 K St. NW, Suite 1120
Washington, D.C. 20006
Fax: (202) 296-0826
E-Mail: eclac@tmn.com

4. The deadline for the receipt of submissions is **March 31, 1999**, in preparation for the Ministerial meeting in October 1999 in Canada.

News Release

November 5, 1998

(7:15 p.m. EST)

No. 257

AXWORTHY DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA'S REFUSAL TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed deep concern over the continued refusal by authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) to co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The FRY authorities have refused to issue visas to ICTY investigators who were to accompany Chief Prosecutor Louise Arbour to the FRY. They have also explicitly stated they will not allow the ICTY to carry out investigations on FRY territory, including in Kosovo.

"The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has a clear responsibility under international law to co-operate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal's investigations into possible war crimes committed on its territory," said Minister Axworthy. "Canadian representatives in international fora such as the Security Council (of which Canada will be a member as of January 1, 1999), NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) will insist on full compliance in that regard, since there can be no peace in Kosovo without impartial justice."

UN Security Council Resolution 827 (1993) granted the ICTY jurisdiction over the entire territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, for a period of time beginning January 1, 1991, and ending at a time to be specified by the Security Council. UN Security Council Resolutions 1199 and 1203, adopted recently, make it clear that the ICTY continues to have jurisdiction over Kosovo.

Minister Axworthy has written to FRY Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic to reiterate Canada's position on this matter. The Yugoslav Ambassador to Canada was called in by a senior Departmental official, who communicated Minister Axworthy's concerns.

- 30 -



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News Release


International Trade
Commerce international

November 6, 1998

(2:00 p.m. EST)

No. 258

MARCHI TO LEAD TRADE DELEGATION TO CHINA AND VISIT SINGAPORE AND KUALA LUMPUR

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will head a Canada–China Business Council trade delegation to Dalian, China, on November 17 before heading to Beijing from November 18 to 20 for the annual general meeting of the Canada–China Business Council, a major business signing ceremony, and other events.

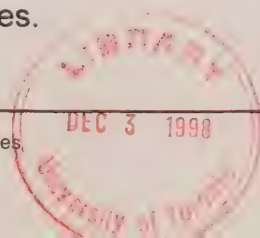
Minister Marchi will also visit Singapore on November 13, before attending the APEC Ministerial meeting in Kuala Lumpur on November 14 and 15.

"Canadian firms have a strong and growing presence in China, and Canada–China trade has continued to broaden and mature in recent years," said Mr. Marchi. "A large majority of Canadian investment in China comes from small-and-medium-sized enterprises, and exports in services and high technology and manufactured goods continue to increase."

The China portion of the Minister's trip will focus on Canada's long-term plans to develop closer business relationships with that country's rapidly emerging regional markets, and on diversifying Canada's already strong trade and investment with China.

In Dalian, Minister Marchi will meet with various provincial and municipal government leaders, and address a networking session of the Canada–China Business Council. In Beijing, the Minister will give a keynote address at the annual general meeting of the Canada–China Business Council and meet with senior Chinese ministers to discuss Canadian trade interests. He will also participate in various high-level meetings with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. The Minister will highlight the success of Canadian businesses in the region by attending a signing ceremony of projects between Canadian companies and their partners in China.

Mr. Marchi begins his trip in Singapore, where he will address a seminar on investing in Canadian technology and attend a luncheon with Canadian companies. He will stress Canada's openness to foreign investment and his desire for closer co-operation with Singapore in multilateral bodies.



Mr. Marchi will then attend the two-day APEC Ministerial meeting in Kuala Lumpur where his focus will be on promoting economic stability in the region and on encouraging further progress on trade liberalization.

Minister Marchi's participation in the APEC Ministerial precedes the Leaders' Summit, which Prime Minister Chrétien will attend. The Minister's visit to China and Singapore also partially coincides with the Prime Minister's visit to those countries.

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A list of participants in the Canada–China Business Council events in Dalian is attached.

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Participants Attending Canada–China Business Council Events in Dalian, China

Bank of Montreal
Bond International College
Bridge Trust and Investment Group
CAE Inc.
Canadian Pacific Railway
Capital West Group
China–Alberta Petroleum Centre
Davey International Inc.
Edwin Industries (F.E.) Inc.
FLIO Inc.
Forte Enterprise and Trade Ltd.
Fuyunang City, Zhejiang Province
George Lu and Associates, Inc.
Globe Foundation
Harris Canada and Eicon Technology
Harris Communications Ltd.
Hillary Enterprises Ltd.
Hunan Huajia Telecom. Engineering Co.
Jinzhou City
Liaoning Overseas Publishing Group
Lockerbie Stanley Inc.
Macdonald Realty (1974) Inc.
McDonald and Hayden
Newbridge Networks Corp.
Nortel (China) Ltd.
Power Communications
Power Corporation of Canada
Quebec Trade Office
Shaanxi Qinling Seers Noferrous Metal
SinoCann Entrepreneurs Association
SNC-Lavalin International Inc.
Stikeman, Elliott
Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada
Teda Enterprises (Canada) Inc.
The Canada Life Assurance Company
Upsilon International Commerce (SUCI)
Vancouver Port Corporation
Worldtek (Canada) Ltd.

News Release

November 6, 1998

(2:30 p.m. EST)

No. 259

AXWORTHY TO VISIT RUSSIA, ATTEND APEC MINISTERIAL

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced he will visit Moscow, Russia, from November 10 to 11, and then participate in the APEC forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on November 14.

"Although Canada and Russia already maintain wide-ranging political relations through regular working-level exchanges, this meeting will enable us to deepen our mutual understanding with respect to UN affairs, G-8 issues, European security, economic issues, Arctic and Northern co-operation and a vast array of other bilateral topics," said Mr. Axworthy. "We will also use this opportunity to discuss our governments' respective objectives for the upcoming APEC Ministerial and Leaders Meetings in Kuala Lumpur, which will mark Russia's accession to the APEC forum."

In Russia, Mr. Axworthy will meet with Russia's Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, principally to discuss key international security issues, such as the situation in Kosovo, and ways to improve Canada-Russia co-operation on regional issues.

In Malaysia, Mr. Axworthy will join International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi to attend the 10th meeting of APEC ministers responsible for international trade and for foreign affairs. The APEC Ministerial Meeting will be followed by the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, November 17 to 18, which Prime Minister Chrétien will be attending.

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News Release

November 6, 1998

(5:00 p.m. EST)

No. 260

CANADA TO CONTRIBUTE \$1 MILLION TO SLOVENIAN TRUST FUND FOR MINE ACTION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau today welcomed the establishment of the International Trust Fund for Demining and for the Assistance of Mine Victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the government of Slovenia. The Ministers also announced a Canadian contribution of \$1 million to the Fund.

"Canada applauds and encourages the spirit of regional co-operation shown by the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia in developing this Fund. This partnership will have long-term benefits for mine action on the ground in Bosnia," said Mr. Axworthy.

"Canada has committed \$10 million over five years for mine action in Bosnia and welcomes the opportunity to encourage other donors through this new initiative," he added.

"This is a unique opportunity to broaden our mine action efforts in Bosnia. We expect this Fund will demonstrate the practical benefits of donor countries and mine-affected countries setting common priorities and pooling their resources," said Madame Marleau.

Slovenia developed this Fund to help foster regional reconstruction, and made the first contribution to the Fund in the amount of US\$1.2 million. The United States has pledged up to a maximum of US\$28 million to match every other donor's contribution. Over two years, the Fund could grow to as much as US\$56 million. The Fund will have a positive effect on mine action in Bosnia, a heavily mine-affected country, by enhancing existing mine action projects and integrating new ones.

The Ministers' statement coincides with the first donor conference for the Trust Fund, which is taking place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, November 8 and 9.



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Canada's contribution comes from the \$10 million it announced for mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina last March, which was itself sourced from the five-year, \$100 million dollar Canadian Landmine Fund established in December 1997.

- 30 -

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News Release

November 13, 1998

No. 261

CANADA DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT VIOLENCE IN INDONESIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today expressed their deep concern over the violent clashes that took place during recent demonstrations in Jakarta, which claimed the lives of several pro-reform protesters.

Minister Axworthy called on all parties involved to exercise restraint and to resolve their differences peacefully as Indonesia pursues a reform agenda to meet the democratic aspirations of its people. "I am disturbed by the recent events in Indonesia and offer condolences to the victims and their families," said Mr. Axworthy. "I urge the Indonesian authorities to launch an investigation into the violence."

"We strongly encourage all parties involved to engage in a process of dialogue to bring about peace, stability and democracy in Indonesia," added Mr. Chan. "Canada hopes that the Indonesian government and, most notably, the armed forces will move quickly to implement the recommendations of the Joint Fact-Finding Team Report on the May 1998 riots and bring those accountable to justice."

- 30 -

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News Release

November 15, 1998

(10:35 a.m. EST)

No. 262

**CANADA ENCOURAGED BY CREATION OF COALITION
GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA**

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today said that he was encouraged by the creation of a coalition government in Cambodia, which could end the political impasse of the past four months. Mr. Axworthy made his comments in Kuala Lumpur, where he is attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meeting.

"I am pleased to see that the main political parties in Cambodia were able to come to an agreement reflecting the popular choice which the Cambodian people expressed with determination during the July 26 elections," said Mr. Axworthy. "Now the political leaders can turn their attention to the challenges faced by their country."

Two previous attempts at negotiating an agreement had ended without success. However, in negotiations convened by Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk, the head of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Hun Sen, and the head of the royalist party FUNCINPEC, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, agreed to form a coalition government that will share key ministerial posts and create a bicameral parliamentary system.

"It is encouraging to see that the efforts of Canada and many other countries have contributed to the development of what we hope will lead to a stable and prosperous democracy," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. "The resolution of the political impasse in Cambodia will undoubtedly contribute to the political and economic stability in the southeast Asian region."

All during the post-election crisis in Cambodia, the Government of Canada, through diplomatic channels, encouraged the parties to enter into a dialogue and to negotiate. Canada has taken a lead role in anti-personnel landmine clearance and education through the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, including providing Canadian soldiers as technical advisors. Canada also provided support in the lead-up to the Cambodian elections.

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News Release

November 15, 1998

(11:40 a.m.)

No. 263

CANADA TO CONTRIBUTE TO APEC Y2K PREPARATIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the contribution of \$150 000 for the development of an experts' symposium on Year 2000 (Y2K) computer readiness, to be held by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

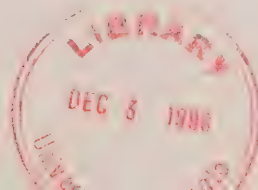
"The Y2K computer problem is unprecedented in its technical nature and its potential global impact. At home, the Canadian government is committed to ensuring that Canada is prepared, but that is not enough. Globalization means we cannot isolate ourselves from the problems of our trading partners, including APEC economies," said Mr. Axworthy. "We must work with, learn from and help other economies ensure that their systems are ready for the year 2000 as well."

The Y2K phenomenon refers to the fact that in an effort to save expensive computer memory, most computers store dates in the two-digit dd/mm/yy format, rather than using four digits for the year. As a result, when the millennium arrives, computers may register the year "00" as 1900 rather than 2000. This could lead to incorrect results or computer crashes, affecting hardware, software, products or services.

The Canadian contribution will be used to organize a forum that will bring together experts from APEC member economies. The aim is to take stock of Y2K preparations, raise awareness, compare experiences and best practices and mobilize action. APEC trade ministers will review the state of preparations at their next meeting.

"Nowhere is the trend toward interdependency more evident today than among the economies of the Asia Pacific," said Mr. Marchi. "Co-ordination on Y2K will help ensure that the technology and infrastructure that supports the essential trade between our economies will not be affected. This initiative is part of Canada's approach of working bilaterally and multilaterally with other partners. We firmly believe that we all can accomplish much more by working together, rather than in isolation."

As part of Canada's efforts, on October 7-9 Canada hosted the Ottawa Ministerial Conference on Electronic Commerce, where the Organization for Economic

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Cooperation and Development (OECD) report *The Year 2000 Problem: Impacts and Actions* was presented. The conference brought together representatives of 41 countries, 14 international organizations such as the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, business and public interest groups. Seven APEC economies participated in the conference, and six others attended as observers.

At the May 1998 Birmingham Summit, leaders also agreed to take further urgent action to share information within the G-8 and with other organizations such as the World Bank and OECD, as well as with the private sector and public interest organizations.

Funding for this contribution was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

November 18, 1998

(4:30 p.m. EST)

No. 264

AXWORTHY TABLES ANNUAL REPORT ON EXPORTS OF CANADIAN MILITARY GOODS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today tabled in Parliament the 1997 edition of *Exports of Military Goods from Canada*.

The 1997 edition of the report follows the format of the 1996 report, which set a new standard of transparency. The report provides more detail about the types of goods being exported while protecting sensitive commercial information on specific transactions in a highly competitive market.

"Canada is working actively to promote greater transparency in the trade and control of conventional military weapons," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canadian efforts are part of a much larger and constantly evolving international co-operative effort. Canada works with other countries to ensure that the interests of legitimate users are taken into account in decisions affecting the export of military goods."

In 1997, over 70 percent of Canada's military goods exports went to fellow NATO countries and other countries linked by formal government-to-government defence agreements. Less than 1 percent of Canada's controlled military goods exports went to low-income countries, and these often consisted of replacement parts for older Canadian-built radios and transport aircraft.

In addition, Minister Axworthy is launching a new brochure called *Answers to Questions about Canada's Export Controls on Military Goods*. The brochure is designed to explain Canada's policies relating to the export of military goods and technology, as well as how these policies operate. It outlines the trade in military goods and international agreements that form the basis for the control of these exports. In particular, the brochure describes the procedures that Canada uses to ensure appropriate export decisions and to prevent the illegal export of firearms.

Copies of the annual report and the brochure are available from the InfoCentre of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) at 1-800-267-8376.

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These documents are also available on the DFAIT Export and Import Controls Web page (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb/export/Military97/mil97front-e.htm>).

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News Release


International Trade
Commerce internationale

November 20, 1998

(12:00 p.m. EST)

No. 265

CANADIAN BUSINESS DEALS IN BEIJING STRENGTHEN CANADA-CHINA BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi witnessed the signing of 46 commercial agreements today worth \$720.8 million during the Canada-China Business Forum in Beijing, China.

"These agreements send a strong message that Canada is broadening and diversifying its trade and investment presence in China," said Minister Marchi. "The impressive number of commercial transactions in high technology, advanced manufacturing and specialized services demonstrate that Canada and China are strengthening their business relationship built around the new high-technology economy."

Examples of innovative deals that highlight this burgeoning business relationship include: Hydronov Inc., which has signed two deals to construct hydroponic greenhouses; Kelowna Flightcraft International Air Cargo and Winnport Air Cargo, which are offering a cargo service between China and Canada; and Lavergne China Inc., which will develop a facility to turn contaminated plastic into high-value, semi-finished plastic products.

Today's signings included 27 contracts worth \$551.7 million, 10 memorandums of understanding or letters of intent valued at \$29.4 million, and seven investments worth \$139.8 million. Several other companies attending the signing ceremony also announced office openings. Separate from today's signings, the Export Development Corporation announced a renewal of a \$288 million credit facility with the Bank of China.

The China portion of the Minister's trip focused on Canada's long-term plans to develop closer business relationships with that country's rapidly emerging regional markets and diversifying Canada's already strong trade and investment with China.

In Dalian, Minister Marchi met with Liaoning Party Secretary Wen Shizhen, Liaoning Governor Zhang Guoguang and Dalian Mayor Bo Xilai.



In Beijing, the Minister gave a keynote address at the annual general meeting of the Canada-China Business Council and met with several senior Chinese ministers to discuss Canadian trade and investment interests, including agriculture, mining and telecommunications. Those that Minister Marchi met include: Zeng Peiyan, Chairman of the State Development Planning Commission; Dai Xianglong, Governor of the People's Bank of China; Zhou Yongkang, Minister of Land and Resources; Wu Jichuan, Minister of Information Industry; and Sun Zhenyu, Vice-Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Affairs.

"Despite the financial crisis gripping Asia, China has managed to promote both financial stability and economic growth," concluded Mr. Marchi. "Canadian companies continue to be committed partners in the Chinese market."

Minister Marchi began his trip in Singapore, where he addressed a seminar on investing in Canada, and then attended the two-day APEC Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tomorrow, Minister Marchi joins Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in the city of Lanzhou, where Canada is contributing to local development through Canadian International Development Agency projects.

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Backgrounders on the business deals and initiatives signed are attached.

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Backgrounder

LIST OF NEW BUSINESS INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED TODAY IN BEIJING, CHINA

ABL Canada Inc., St. Laurent, Quebec. ABL Canada Inc. has signed a distribution agreement with STR International Ltd., a subsidiary of Shanghai Industrial Investment (Holding) Company, for the distribution and marketing in China of ABL VideoExpress products. The ABL VideoExpress solution is comprised of video-based hardware (video codecs and routers) and software (video network management). The agreement includes a stocking order by STR of \$720 000 (US\$500 000) worth of ABL equipment. The combination of STR's experience in the China broadcast video industry and ABL's proven expertise to integrate video over SDH networks have already generated much interest in China for ABL's VideoExpress solution.

Architects Crang and Boake Inc., Don Mills, Ontario. Architects Crang and Boake have signed a \$1.44 million (US\$1 million) contract with Chang Hong Real Estate Development Co. Ltd. for the planning and design of the 100 000 m² Tianjin Electrical Shopping Centre.

Architects Crang and Boake have also signed a \$720 000 contract (US\$500 000) with the Government of Qingshan District, Baotou, for the planning and design of the two-million m² Baotou Qingshan Industrial Development area.

Bombardier Inc., Montreal, Quebec, and Power Pacific Corporation Ltd. (subsidiary of Power Corporation of Canada, Montreal, Quebec). Bombardier and Power Pacific have signed a contract with Sifang Locomotive and Rolling Stock Works which creates the Bombardier Sifang Power (Qingdao) Transportation Ltd. joint venture. Located in Shandong province, the joint venture will manufacture mass transit railcars, incorporating Bombardier technology, for both the Chinese domestic market and for exports. The project is designed to have an annual production capacity of 100 high grade passenger railcars and 600 car bodies. The project will enable local production of a range of mass transit vehicles, including railcars, inter-city passengers railcars, subways, light rail trains, and high speed trains. The total investment of the project is about \$110 million. Bombardier and Power together will own 50 percent of the joint venture.

The Bombardier Sifang Power (Qingdao) Transportation Ltd. joint venture confirmed that it had been awarded an order of 300 inter-city high grade railcars, with the option for an additional 200 cars. The total value of the order, including the option, is estimated at \$550 million.

Bombardier has also signed a \$5 million contract with the Xi'an Aircraft Factory to purchase 50 sets of doors and ailerons for its CL-415 aircraft. The CL-415 "SuperScooper," the world's only aircraft that is designed and built for the task of

fighting wildfires, is currently in use in France, Italy, Croatia and California, as well as Canada. In addition to firefighting, the CL-415, with its amphibious capabilities, can also be used for secondary roles such as coastal surveillance, search and rescue, and as a utility transport.

CEEB ANG International Group Ltd., St. Bruno, Quebec. CEEB ANG International Canada and Beijing Splendour Architecture Technology Consultants have signed an agreement to set up a joint venture company, the Beijing Sino Canadian Energy Conservation Development Co. Ltd. The joint venture has been established to build the CEEB Complex — Canadian Village in Beijing. The US\$120 million project is composed of 20 000 m² of office building and 180 000 m² of residential space on a 12 hectare lot. The project will be built over five years and the Canadian content in equipment, building material and services will be approximately \$46 million (US\$32 million). The first phase of the project will result in 15 000 m² of office space to be used by the Housing Industry Office under the Ministry of Construction, and will also include 50 000 m² of residential space.

Dura Products International, Toronto, Ontario. Dura Products International has signed a letter of intent with Beijing United Transportation Enterprise and Development Co. for the purchase of 150 000 to 200 000 recycled wood and plastic pallets a year. The company hopes to also produce the pallets locally once market conditions are conducive. The project's estimated value is \$4.3 million (US\$3 million). Dura Products has developed patent-pending technology to use recycled plastics and wood fibres to make high-value composite pallets that have the strength of hardwood pallets without the problems associated with wood. Dura manufactures the pallets in Toronto where it has 15 employees. It also employs 15 people in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dura has also signed a letter of intent with the Yutian Hi-Tech Industrial Park to set up a wholly owned manufacturing plant to make composite pallets and work with the city to market Dura products in China and beyond. The investment's estimated value is \$7.2 million (US\$5 million).

Eicon Technologies, Montreal, Quebec. Eicon Technologies has signed a memorandum of understanding with Shanghai Telecom for a training partnership on ISDN technology. Eicon will also donate some of its products to help equip Shanghai Telecom's training centres. Eicon and Shanghai Telecom have already signed an agreement for the distribution of Eicon's ISDN access products. Eicon Technology Corporation offers worldwide remote access solutions: ISDN, WAN and SNA. The company exports to over 120 countries, including France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Italy and the United States. The company employs 500 people.

Eicon has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Beijing Telecom for a training partnership on ISDN technology. Eicon will also donate some of its products to help equip Beijing Telecom's training centres.

Harris Communications, Greater China Division, China. Harris Communications has signed a \$2.3 million (US\$1.6 million) contract with Jiangxi Unicom for the sale of digital transmission equipment for a new cellular system that will serve the cities of Jiujian and Nanchang. Equipment to be sold includes: 32 Quadralink II radios in the 7-GHz band and 68 Microstar radios in the 13 Ghz band. The equipment will be supplied by Harris Canada's operation in Montreal. Harris is a global communications and electronics company. Core products and services include: wireless communications, digital television, microelectronics, information processing and digital office systems. Harris is based in Florida in the United States and employs about 29 000 people worldwide.

Harris Canada Inc., Montreal, Quebec. Harris Canada has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Information Centre of the Ministry of Water Resources for the study and analysis of telecommunications equipment and services to be used for the National Flood Prevention Command System. The estimated project value is \$1.0 million (US\$700 000).

Harris Canada Inc. has also signed a \$3.6 million (US\$2.5 million) agreement with the Hunan Bureau of the Water Resources Information Centre for the sale of digital microwave and wireless local loop products for the Dong Ting Lake (Hunan Province) Flood Control Communications Network System.

Harris Canada has also announced the opening of an office in Chongqing which will be a liaison office and responsible for sales and after-sales services in south-west China.

Hoken Trading Ltd., Toronto, Ontario. Hoken Trading Ltd. has signed a \$2.7 million (US\$1.9 million) joint venture agreement with Ningxia Islamic International Trust and Investment Corporation and Ningxia Machinery and Electrical Group Ltd. The joint venture will develop a plant that will process 100 000 tons per year of fresh alfalfa, including growing, harvesting, processing equipment, technology transfer and training. Hoken will own 30 percent of the joint venture company and the plant.

Hoken Trading has also signed a \$4.6 million (US\$3.2 million) contract with Bailong Vegetable Engineering Ltd. to supply a turnkey pig breeding farm in Xi'an, including 150 breeding swine, buildings, equipment, training and technology.

Hydronov Inc., Mirabel, Quebec. Hydronov has signed a \$4.3 million contract with the Administrative Committee of Beijing Shunyi ("Three High" Agricultural Pilot Area of Science and Technology) for the immediate construction of a greenhouse facility.

The project will use Hydronov's advanced floating rafts hydroponic technology from its Canadian facilities. It will produce more than 800 000 kgs of fresh vegetables per year.

Hydronov has also signed a letter of intent with Shenzhen Greens Technology Co. Ltd. and Shenzhen Evergreen Vegetables Co. Ltd. for phase two of a high-technology agricultural project using Hydronov's "floating raft" hydroponic system. The floating raft system is 100 percent Canadian content and includes technology transfer, training and equipment. The project's value is estimated at \$8.6 million. The facility is the second phase of a similar project built in 1998, now into commercial production of high-quality lettuce.

International Cancer Society of Canada, Oakville, Ontario. The International Cancer Society of Canada has signed a letter of intent with the Cancer Institute and Cancer Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences to co-operate on the development and implementation of cancer care facilities throughout China. The first facility is to be based in Beijing, China, and will be associated with the Cancer Hospital.

International Centre for Chinese Affairs (ICCA), Ottawa, Ontario. The ICCA and Shanxi Xinzhou Dafa Corporation have signed a contract to form a joint venture in Shanxi Province for the production of 100 000 tons of bauxite. The joint venture will market the product in both China and abroad. The value of the project is estimated at \$5.0 million (US\$3.5 million), of which \$2.45 million is Canadian content. The project includes consulting services, feasibility studies and the purchase of land and equipment. The ICCA is a consulting service firm that specializes in China.

Kaiwing Enterprises Ltd., Richmond, British Columbia. Kaiwing has signed a letter of intent with Yunnan Provincial Medicinal Materials Company to supply \$15 million worth of Canadian ginseng for the manufacture of products, such as ginseng tea, ginseng almonds, ginseng plums and other products. The Canadian ginseng will be combined with an equivalent value of Chinese tiangi in the manufacture of the products. The products will then be marketed in Canada, China and other countries. The company estimates total revenues from the final value-added products could reach \$100 million.

Kelowna Flightcraft International Air Cargo, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Winnport Air Cargo, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Kelowna Flightcraft and Winnport have signed an interline agreement with Air China Cargo to offer a through service between any location in China served by Air China and any point in Canada served by Kelowna Flightcraft International Air Cargo. The agreement is expected to generate from \$8 million to \$12 million per year. Kelowna Flightcraft and Winnport already offer a B-747 all-cargo air service between Winnipeg and Nanjing and Shenzhen three times a week.

Ksat Satellite Networks, Vancouver, British Columbia, and Omnitronix Ltd., Montreal, Quebec. Ksat and Omnitronix have signed a contract with Beijing Gaida Satellite Communications Networks Ltd. for the purchase of 1 000 VSAT units. The project is valued at \$5.5 million (US\$3.8). The units will be used to monitor flood-control and water resource systems.

Omnitronix has signed a contract with Beijing Gaida Satellite Communications Networks Ltd. for the joint development of radio transmission units. The project is valued at \$360 000 (US\$250 000).

Lavergne China Inc., Montreal, Quebec. Lavergne China has signed a \$10.5 million (US\$7.5 million) contract with Beijing Olympic Li Kang Transportation Corp. and Beijing Shilong Industrial Zone Investment and Development Corp. to form a joint venture company to develop a plant that will treat contaminated plastic and turn it into high-value, semi-finished plastic products, such as thermoforming sheets used in packaging. The new joint venture company will be called Kang Jie Long Environmental Material Co. Ltd. and will be 51 percent owned by Canadian interests.

Lavergne has also signed a \$10.5 million (US\$7.5 million) contract with Chongqing Datian Agriculture Company to form another joint venture company to develop a second facility to treat contaminated plastic.

Manulife Financial, Toronto, Ontario. Manulife has signed a memorandum of understanding with Sinochem of Beijing to establish a joint venture company to operate a mutual fund business in China. Manulife and Sinochem are already partners in the Zhonghong life insurance joint venture in Shanghai. Manulife Financial, Canada's largest life insurance company, has assets of over \$47 billion. It offers a full range of life insurance products and services. Founded in 1887, the company's first chairman was Sir John A. MacDonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada. Manulife participated in both the 1994 Team Canada Mission to China and the 1996 mission to India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Newbridge Networks (Asia) Inc. Newbridge Networks (Asia), a subsidiary of Newbridge Networks of Kanata, Ontario, has signed a contract to supply ATM switch equipment to build the core and backbone ATM network for the China Post national multi-service wide-area-network. Newbridge will install Mainstreet Xpress 36170 switches in 31 provincial capitals across China. The ATM network will provide data, voice and multimedia and will allow China Post to optimize its postal services. This is the second national backbone network that Newbridge has supplied to China, the first being a national DDN backbone awarded by China Telecom in 1994. Newbridge Networks designs, manufactures, markets and services a comprehensive family of networking products and systems in more than 100 countries. The company employs more than 6 200 people worldwide and operates research and development and

sales facilities in Canada, the United States, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Australia and Asia.

Nortel Networks — Bay Networks, China. Bay Networks, a business unit of Nortel Networks of Ottawa, Ontario, has signed a \$2.88 million (US\$2 million) agreement with Tsinghua University to establish a joint research laboratory to develop computer networking technologies and products in China. The agreement also includes an expert exchange program to encourage closer co-operation. Nortel is a leading global provider of digital network products and services. Its customers are local and long-distance telecommunications companies, cellular mobile radio and personal communications services providers, businesses, universities, governments, cable television companies, competitive local-access providers, and other network operators around the world.

Nortel Networks (China) Inc. Nortel Networks (China), a subsidiary of Nortel Networks of Ottawa, Ontario, and its Chinese partners has also announced a \$53 million (US\$37 million) investment in its switching joint venture, Guangdong Nortel Telecommunications Switching Ltd. (GDNT). The investment will further expand GDNT's scope of business to include mobile telecommunications, access and data systems, in addition to Nortel Networks DMS switching equipment. Nortel's Chinese partners in the investment include subsidiaries of the Guangdong, Hebei and Henan Post and Telecommunications Administrations (PTAs) and partners of the Macro Group of Shunde, Guangdong.

Nortel has also signed seven contracts totalling \$173 million (US\$120 million). They include:

- **Nortel Guangdong (GDNT), Shunde Province.** Guangdong Nortel has signed contracts with the Yunnan, Shaanxi and Tinjian Post and Telecommunications Administrations (PTAs) for the sale of PMS switching equipment.
- **Nortel Networks (China).** Nortel Networks (China) has also signed a contract with Unicom Sichuan and Chongqing for the expansion of one of their earlier PSTN projects and the sale of the latest PDMX-EV access product.
- **Nortel Networks (China)** has also signed a contract with Hebei PTA for phase five of the Hebei PTA GSM project.
- **Nortel Networks (China)** has also signed a contract for the installation of the Ningxia Unicom GSM project; a contract for the expansion of the Heilongjiang Unicom GSM project; and a contract for the expansion of the Shandong Unicom GSM project.

- Nortel Networks (China) has also signed a contract with China Customs to design, build and install the State Port Private Network, a private ATM network based on the public ATM currently used by China Customs.

OPIsystems Inc., Calgary, Alberta. Jiahua OPISystems Co. Ltd., has opened its Beijing Sales Centre. This follows the recently signed joint venture between OPI Systems of Calgary, China Super Union Co. and Linangmao Science and Technology Development Co. that specializes in bringing advanced grain storage management into China.

Panda North American Ventures Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia. Panda North American Ventures has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Xin Xiang Real Estate Development Company of the China Real Estate Group to jointly build an International Cultural House in Vancouver, British Columbia. The project's estimated value is \$1.5 million, of which 30 percent (\$450 000) is Canadian content. The house will mainly be used as a temporary residence and for cultural activities for foreign students who are studying in Vancouver. Panda has 20 years of experience in business and tourism with China. The Chinese partners will visit Canada shortly to select land in Vancouver so construction can begin.

Sino Cann Entrepreneurs Association, Mississauga, Ontario and Yongzheng International Investment (China) Corp. Sino Cann and Yongzheng have signed a contract with the Orient International Holding Co. Ltd. to co-organize the 1999 International Water and Environment Protection Technology Exhibition, which will be held in Shanghai in June 1999. The event is sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources and the National Environment Protection Agency, and is expected to draw about 200 companies. The project's value is estimated at \$490 000 (US\$350 000).

Sino Cann has also signed a memorandum of agreement with the China Communication and Transportation Association to act as an agent to procure communications and transportation equipment in Canada.

Tesco Drilling Technology, Calgary, Alberta. Tesco Drilling Technology, a subsidiary of Tesco Corporation, has signed a \$1.57 million (US\$1.09 million) contract with China National Star Petroleum Corporation for the sale of one of Tesco's 500ECI electric top drive systems. The system will be used to drill directional, horizontal and vertical wells with downhole problems in Tarim Basin. The use of this advanced technology should help substantially reduce drilling costs. Tesco's top drive systems are installed in land and offshore rigs in more than 25 countries around the world. These systems are essentially robotic machines made up of a drilling motor and pipehandler used for drilling oil, gas and geothermal wells. The company employs more than 900 people. This is the fifth top drive that Tesco has sold in China.

Westcoast Energy International Inc., Vancouver, British Columbia. Westcoast Energy International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Westcoast Energy Inc., has formed a Sino-foreign joint venture for power purchase and fuel supply contracts with Shanghai No.1 Steel. Blast furnace gas will be purchased as a major fuel source from the No.1 Steel plant and No.1 Steel will purchase all the power produced from the power plant. This joint venture will build, own, operate and transfer a 50 megawatt simple cycle power plant to be located within Shanghai No.1 Steel's manufacturing complex. The total value of the project is \$42.9 million (US\$29.8). Westcoast has a 32.5 percent interest in the joint venture. Westcoast will be the project manager and advisor on plant operations for the first 15 years of a 20-year joint venture contract. The plant, which is currently under construction, is scheduled to commence operations in late 1999.

Yongzheng International Investment (China) Corp., Mississauga, Ontario. Yongzhen has signed a contract with Shanghai Luigia International Information Networks Co. Ltd. and the Planning and Economic Commission of Jiangsu Province to provide a computer network and services as part of the International Information Networks Trade Centre in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. The investment is valued at \$2.88 million (US\$2 million)

Yongzheng has also signed a contract with Shanghai Liujia International Information Networks Co. Ltd. and the Suzhou Industrial Park Administrative Committee to provide software for the International Information Networks Trade Centre. The project is valued at \$86 000 (US\$60 000).

Backgrounder

OTHER COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER'S VISIT TO BEIJING

Blake, Cassels & Graydon, Toronto, Ontario. The law firm of Blake, Cassels & Graydon has officially opened an office in Beijing, having recently been granted approval by the Chinese government. One of Canada's oldest and largest law firms, they provide legal advice on a broad range of corporate, commercial, tax, litigation and intellectual property matters. They have offices in four major Canadian centres, London, England, and now Beijing. The firm participated in the 1996 Team Canada trade mission to Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia, the 1998 mission to Latin America and Minister Marchi's spring 1998 trade mission to China.

Export Development Corporation (EDC), Ottawa, Ontario. EDC has signed the extension of a \$288 million (US\$200 million) credit facility with the Bank of China. This agreement will facilitate the financing of sales of Canadian capital equipment and services to Chinese buyers in a variety of sectors. EDC has maintained a credit facility with the Bank of China since 1979, and the Bank of China remains one of EDC's prime borrowers in China.

Sun Life of Canada, Toronto, Ontario. Sun Life, through an agreement with the People's Bank of China, has sponsored the development of the first Chinese-English dictionary of insurance terms which was unveiled this week. Sun Life of Canada began business in 1871, and has grown to become a diversified financial services company with operations in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia and Bermuda. The company manages \$186 billion in total assets and employs more than 10 000 worldwide. Sun Life hopes to provide a broad range of financial products to Chinese consumers, such as life insurance, pensions and mutual funds.

Teshmont Consultants Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba. Teshmont Consultants Ltd. has signed a contract with China Three Gorges Power Corp. to provide the engineering consulting service and the engineering and procurement of high voltage electrical equipment on the left bank of the power plant, including transformers and GIS equipment. Teshmont is a consulting engineering company specializing in the provision of engineering services for high voltage transmission systems, particularly in high voltage direct current (HVDC) systems. Teshmont has expertise in the design of HVDC converter stations, extra high voltage alternating current (EHVAC) terminal stations, direct current (DC) electrodes, communication systems, electrical and structural design of associated extra high voltage (EHV) transmission lines, and in construction supervision and commissioning of complete transmission systems.

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News Release

November 20, 1998

(3:30 p.m. EST)

No. 266

CANADA TO PROVIDE UP TO 80 SPECIALISTS TO THE OSCE KOSOVO VERIFICATION MISSION

The Government of Canada has informed the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) that it can offer up to 80 civilian, police and military personnel to the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) to monitor compliance with a United Nations Security Council resolution to end violence in the troubled region.

The Canadian proposal included up to 60 civilian and police verifiers and up to 20 Canadian Forces personnel who would operate both in the field and at KVM Headquarters in Pristina. Canadian personnel will be deployed as required by the mission. The police and civilian personnel component of Canada's participation will be funded by the Canadian International Development Agency through the Peacebuilding Fund, which will provide a contribution of up to \$3 million to the OSCE international mission in Kosovo.

The selection of civilians is being conducted primarily by the Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (CANADEM), an organization funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to maintain a database of Canadians qualified and available for service in the field of human rights and democratic development.

"The developments of the last months on the Kosovo issue demonstrate that the multilateral system works when recognized international organizations are used to their full potential and their mandate is respected," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Canada is delighted to see the lead role that the OSCE is taking in this case and will actively be engaged on the full range of issues related to Kosovo, particularly the vital question of the security of verifiers."

"Hope begins when the fighting stops," said Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau. "Restoring a lasting peace to Kosovo will not be easy, but the first step has been taken. The Peacebuilding Fund was intended to provide speedy assistance to conflict zones, and I am confident the Canadian specialists will ensure that the human face of this conflict is not forgotten."

The KVM's purpose is to ensure that the steps taken by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Albanian Kosovar organizations are made irreversible and verifiable.



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These include: the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian relief; co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal on the former Yugoslavia; the return of those displaced from their homes and villages; and a reduction of Yugoslav forces in Kosovo to pre-conflict levels. The OSCE Mission will operate in close co-operation with NATO, whose aircraft will be engaged in airborne verification.

"The Canadian Forces have acquired valuable experience in the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission and in other similar missions," said Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton. "That experience, along with their excellent training, ensure that our personnel are well qualified to verify compliance with the military verification aspects of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission agreement."

"The RCMP stands ready to provide personnel to assist in this important mission," said Solicitor General Andy Scott. "The Force has participated with great distinction in previous United Nations efforts in the former Yugoslavia to bring peace and stability to the region."

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

November 20, 1998

(4:00 p.m. EST)

No. 267

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Mary Robinson, will make an official visit to Canada from November 22 to 28, 1998.

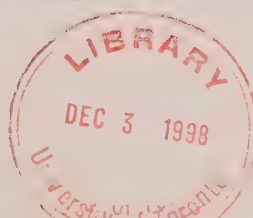
"I am delighted that Mrs. Robinson will be visiting Canada during the 50th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," said Mr. Axworthy. "We take our commitment to the Declaration very seriously and are guided by its principles in both our domestic and foreign human rights policy. It is a particular point of pride that a Canadian, John Peters Humphrey, played a significant role in drafting the text of the Declaration."

"Across Canada, governments, NGOs and private citizens are marking this important milestone in creative and significant ways. I am very pleased that Mrs. Robinson will be able to join us in several such events over the coming days. Her visit gives us a special opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the Declaration and to show our support for her role as High Commissioner," added Mr. Axworthy.

Mrs. Robinson's visit will include stops in St. John's, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Edmonton. Over the course of her visit, Mrs. Robinson will meet with Prime Minister Chrétien, Minister Axworthy and other federal ministers with responsibility for issues related to human rights. She will also meet with provincial government representatives, as well as numerous academics and representatives of the NGO community.

The High Commissioner will also be keynote speaker and guest of honour at several major events taking place across the country, including the inaugural International Press Freedom of Expression Awards on November 24 in Toronto. Both she and Minister Axworthy will take part in this important event being organized by the Canadian Committee for the Protection of Journalists. Mrs. Robinson will also address the International Conference on Universal Rights and Human Values taking place in Edmonton on November 27.

There have been many other Canadian initiatives to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including:

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- "The Vienna Plus Five Global Non-Governmental Organization Forum on Human Rights," which took place last June and was organized by Human Rights Internet with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. This event was the occasion for the launch of *For the Record 1997: The United Nations Human Rights System*, the first annual human rights report based entirely on UN sources.
- A symposium on "The Artist and Human Rights" organized by the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa in co-operation with Festival Canada, at the National Arts Centre, last July.
- Numerous other conferences, including the "Global Conference on the Internet and Human Rights" in Montreal in September.
- Canada hosted Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, in September, who, among his other activities, unveiled a plaque honouring John Peters Humphrey at the Human Rights Monument in Ottawa.
- Mr. Humphrey's role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was also recognized with a commemorative stamp issued by Canada Post in October.
- The Department of Canadian Heritage launched a year-long interactive campaign under the banner of CREDO aimed at building awareness among Canadian youth of current and emerging human rights issues. Youth were encouraged to submit letters, essays, poems, art and videos depicting what human rights mean to them.

The protection and promotion of human rights internationally is a key element of Canada's foreign policy. Respect for human rights is not only a fundamental Canadian value, but also a crucial element in the development of stable, democratic and prosperous societies at peace with each other. Canada recognizes the UN as one of the most important multilateral bodies in which to advance this agenda, and works to ensure that human rights are considered in all the UN's activities. Canada was a leader in the creation of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights within the United Nations in 1993.

This is Mrs. Robinson's first official visit to Canada since becoming High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1997. She previously visited Canada in 1994 in her former capacity as President of Ireland, a position she held from 1990 to 1997.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

**Visit to Canada of Mary Robinson
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

MEDIA PROGRAM

Monday, November 23

ST. JOHN'S

- 16:00** **Media Availability**, Presentation Conference Centre Room, The Lantern, 35 Barns Road. Contact: Dawn Onishenko, St. John's Status of Women Council (709) 753-0220.
Open Coverage
- 19:30** **Address to Open Forum** with St. John's Community Auditorium, Holy Heart of Mary School, 55 Bonaventure Avenue. Contact: Dawn Onishenko, St. John's Status of Women Council (709) 753-0220.
Open Coverage

Tuesday, November 24

TORONTO

- 10:30** **Address to Open Forum** of the academic community and NGOs, Winters College Dining Hall, York University, 4700 Keele Street. Contact: Jean-Ann Lowry, York University (416) 736-2100 ext. 20566.
Open Coverage
- 17:30** **Reception** given by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Regatta Ballroom, Main Lobby, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, One Harbour Square. Contact: Diana Crosbie, Crosbie Communications (416) 360-6625.
Photo Opportunity
- 19:00** **International Press Freedom Awards Dinner** given by the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists (Introduction by Minister Axworthy and Address by Her Excellency Mary Robinson), Metropolitan Grand Ballroom, Second Level Conference Centre. Contact: Diana Crosbie, Crosbie Communications (416) 360-6625.
Open Coverage

Wednesday, November 25

OTTAWA

- 09:15** **Media Availability**, Main Lobby, Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive. Contact: Stewart Wheeler, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874.
Open Coverage

- 16:00 **Meeting** with members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Room 237-C, Centre Block.
Open Coverage. Cameras (photo opportunity) at beginning of meeting only.
- 19:00 **Dinner** given by the United Nations Association of Canada (UNAC) (Address by Mary Robinson), Drawing Room, Lobby Level. Contact: Stewart Wheeler, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874.
Open Coverage

Thursday, November 26

MONTREAL

- 11:00 **Address to Open Forum** with academics, students, NGOs, womens' organizations and members of the Canadian-Irish community, Auditorium 110, 1st Floor, Concordia University, Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West. Contact: Evelyne Abitbol, Concordia University (514) 848-4879.
Open Coverage

Friday, November 27

EDMONTON

- 18:15 **Meeting** with Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, Salon 7, Meeting Level, Shaw Conference Centre.
Media TBC
- 19:00 **Dinner** — Keynote Speech to the International Conference on Universal Rights and Human Values with Introduction by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Hall A, Shaw Conference Centre. Contact: Jerry Manergre (403) 458-0780.
Open Coverage

Saturday, November 28

- 09:00 **Meeting** with students from Holy Trinity High School, Jasper Room, Mezzanine Level, Hotel MacDonald. Contact: Kyle Noonis, Heritage Canada (604) 666-6504.
Open Coverage

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News Release

November 20, 1998

(4:45 p.m. EST)

No. 268

CANADA ANNOUNCES \$3.7M FOR MINE ACTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA IN AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MITCH

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau today announced a \$3.7 million contribution for mine action programs in Central America.

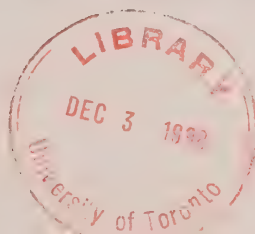
"Canada has always regarded Central America as a priority region for mine action," said Mr. Axworthy in an address to students in Altona, Manitoba. "With the terrible legacy and new challenges presented in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, our efforts to alleviate human suffering caused by anti-personnel mines in this region have become even more important and urgent."

"I just returned from Nicaragua and Honduras where the force of Hurricane Mitch, through mudslides and flooding, has created a new horror by displacing anti-personnel landmines into previously cleared areas," said Minister Marleau.

Canada will provide a contribution of up to \$100 000 to support an assessment mission to be conducted by the Organization of American States (OAS), which has been Canada's key partner in the effort to ban anti-personnel mines in Central America. The OAS has been working on mine action in Central America since 1993 and is well placed to conduct the necessary assessment in order to guide the development of new programs and to evaluate the effects Hurricane Mitch has had on existing mine action programs in the region.

The ministers further announced that \$3.5 million will be allocated over five years to support community-based rehabilitation programs in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras. Canada will work with Mexico and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to realize this project. Canada has also committed a further \$100 000 for a project to be jointly implemented with Israel, aimed at community rehabilitation for landmine victims in Guatemala.

A team of Canadian experts will travel to Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala in December to ensure that all of these initiatives meet the new needs of the communities affected by Hurricane Mitch.

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At the same time Minister Axworthy noted that Canada and Mexico would co-host a regional seminar on anti-personnel mines in Mexico City, Mexico, this January. The theme of the seminar, Reaffirming Our Commitment, has special significance in light of the critical setback and devastating effects created by Hurricane Mitch. Early on in the campaign to ban landmines, Central American and Caribbean leaders pledged to make their region mine free by the year 2000. Both the OAS and PAHO will be key participants at the seminar, building on their important contributions to mine clearance and victim assistance in the region.

Canada's contributions will be sourced from the five-year \$100 million Canadian Landmine Fund announced last December at the signing conference for the Ottawa Convention.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

November 20, 1998

(7:15 p.m. EST)

No. 269

AXWORTHY WELCOMES TRANSFER OF CHRISTINE LAMONT AND DAVID SPENCER TO CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the transfer of Christine Lamont and David Spencer under provisions of the Canada-Brazil Transfer of Offenders Treaty. Ms. Lamont and Mr. Spencer, who had applied to return to Canada in July, are leaving Brazil this evening en route to Canada.

"Their return brings to an end one of Canada's longest consular cases. I am pleased that the Brazilian authorities were able to make these arrangements. Their co-operation was instrumental in resolving this long-standing matter," said Mr. Axworthy.

Ms. Lamont and Mr. Spencer were sentenced to 28-year prison terms for their involvement in the 1989 kidnapping of a Brazilian businessman. Under terms of the Treaty, their full sentence is transferred to Canada, where the remainder will be served in accordance with Canadian laws and regulations. They will be eligible for conditional release under terms of Canada's Corrections and Conditional Release Act. Any such release will rest with the National Parole Board of Canada.

Upon their return to Canada tomorrow morning, Ms. Lamont and Mr. Spencer will be incarcerated immediately at a Canadian correctional facility.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



News Release

November 25, 1998

(3:00 p.m. EST)

No. 270

AXWORTHY TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will travel to Washington on November 30, 1998, to participate in the Conference to Support the Middle East Peace Process and Development. While in Washington, Minister Axworthy will also meet with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"With the signing of the Wye River Memorandum, Israel and the Palestinians have taken another step toward achieving a just and lasting peace," said Mr. Axworthy. "This Conference demonstrates the commitment of the international community to supporting the peace process and Palestinian development."

The foreign ministers of 50 countries have been invited to participate in the Conference.

Later, Minister Axworthy will attend a working dinner with Secretary of State Albright. They will discuss a broad range of issues including Kosovo, Canada's Security Council agenda, the human security agenda and building the North American community. During the meeting they will also consider a proposal for improved pre-clearance arrangements and new intransit facilities in Canadian airports.

Mr. Axworthy will also ask her assistance in seeking clemency for Joseph Faulder, a Canadian citizen sentenced to death, who Canada believes was denied his rights under the Vienna Convention. Mr. Faulder faces execution in Texas on December 10.

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



News Release

November 26, 1998

(12:00 p.m. EST)

No. 271

CANADA WELCOMES THE WTO DECISION TO ESTABLISH A PANEL TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WITH FRANCE OVER CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale today welcomed the decision by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to establish a panel to resolve the dispute between Canada and France over chrysotile asbestos.

"The next step is to set up the panel and launch the procedures. With these elements in place, we are confident that Canada's arguments, based as they are on scientific data, will prevail," said Mr. Marchi.

"The Government of Canada will do whatever it takes at this crucial juncture to demonstrate that chrysotile asbestos products can be used without undue risk, subject to compliance with the responsible use principle in the government's policy on minerals and metals," said Mr. Goodale.

Last month, Canada asked the WTO to establish a panel to review France's decision to ban asbestos in light of that country's international obligations. Canada's application was made following a series of discussions with asbestos industry stakeholders, primarily in Quebec.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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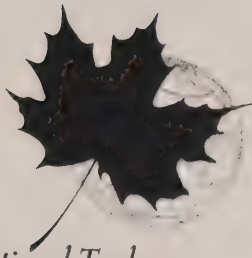
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News Release

November 27, 1998

(2:15 p.m. EST)

No. 272

MARCHI PLEASED WITH INAUGURAL MEETING OF EDUCATION MARKETING ADVISORY BOARD

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today expressed his appreciation following the inaugural meeting of the Education Marketing Advisory Board held in Ottawa yesterday. The Board was announced last month to advise the Minister on matters relating to the export of Canadian education products and services. Sheldon Levy, President of Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, was appointed as the Board's first Chair.

"I believe there is great potential to increase Canada's share of the international market for educational services," said Minister Marchi. "I was delighted to see Mr. Levy and the other members of the Board go right to work to identify priorities for our international education marketing activities, and I thank them for their participation."

At yesterday's meeting, the Board established working groups to address the following topics:

- recruitment of international students;
- market information;
- access to funding from International Financial Institutions (IFIs); and
- technology-mediated learning.

"I have taken note of these priorities," said Mr. Marchi. "My officials and I look forward to further guidance from the Board as we continue to work with our colleagues in the provinces, the education community and our posts abroad to bring a Team Canada approach to the international marketing of Canada's education and training services."

The full Advisory Board will meet again in six months. Its 21 members are broadly representative of the public and private education sectors across the country.

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A list of the members of the Education Marketing Advisory Board is attached.



For further information, media representatives may contact:

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For further information, visit the Department's Educational Marketing Web site at:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/culture/educationmarketing/menu-e.htm>

This document is also available on the Department's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION MARKETING ADVISORY BOARD

Chair, Mr. Sheldon Levy, is President of Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.

Mr. Robert Giroux is President and CEO of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Gerald Brown is President of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Jim Fox is President of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Marc Dolgin is Executive Director of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. William Saywell is President of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC), Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mr. Graham Baldwin is President of the Canadian Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), West Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. Paul Kitchin is Executive Director of the National Association of Career Colleges (NACC), Brantford, Ontario.

Mr. Jay Jamieson is President of the Council of Second Language Programs in Canada (CSLP), North York, Ontario.

Ms. Sharon Curl is President of the Canadian Association of Private Language Schools (CAPLS), Vancouver, British Columbia.

Ms. Penny Milton is Executive Director of the Canadian Education Association (CEA), Toronto, Ontario.

Mr. Hugh Stephens is Assistant Deputy Minister of Communications and Policy Planning, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Ottawa, Ontario.

Ms. Martha Nixon is Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. Mary Jo Lynch is Senior Commerce Officer, Industry Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Thomas Townsend is Director General of the Learning and Literacy Directorate, Communications Branch, Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC), Hull, Québec.

Mr. Nick Norcott is Director, Education Institutional Program, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Hull, Québec.

M^{me} Anne Marrec is Director General of Télé-Université, Québec, Québec.

Dr. Ken Ozmon is President of St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Tom Wood is President of Mount Royal College, Calgary, Alberta.

Dr. Lorna Marsden is President of York University, North York, Ontario.

Ms. Hope Kideckel is Co-ordinator of Career Development Programs at Sisler High School, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

News Release

November 30, 1998

(1:00 p.m. EST)

No. 273

CANADA ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIANS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau announced simultaneously today in Washington D.C., and in Ottawa, that Canada will provide support for the economic and social development of Palestinians over the next four years. The announcement came as Minister Axworthy attended the Conference to Support Middle East Peace and Development.

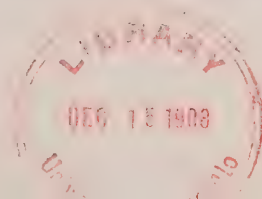
"When I was in Gaza and the West Bank last June, I saw the urgent need for ongoing support to help Palestinians improve their living conditions," said Madame Marleau. "It is also imperative that we continue to support activities that will help build a lasting peace in the region, since peace and development are intertwined. Peace is a necessary condition for poverty reduction, yet poverty and lack of opportunity are often the root causes of conflict."

"The progress that has been achieved in the peace process in the past month demonstrates that negotiation is the only road to peace," said Mr. Axworthy. "With this contribution, we are demonstrating, in a very practical way, Canada's commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace."

Canada's assistance will help Palestinian refugees in the Middle East to meet their basic needs by such means as rebuilding health clinics, rehabilitating shelter, and building sanitation and water facilities. One of the projects that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will continue to support over the four years is the Palestinian Housing and Mortgage Corporation, which will provide a major impetus to the development of the housing sector, creating both economic activity and better housing for Palestinians.

Canada is committed to the peace process in the region, and our support will also be used for projects that enhance dialogue between Israelis and Arabs and that will help to build lasting relationships among all peoples in the Middle East. One such project is the establishment of a joint Israeli-Palestinian training scheme in the field of information technology.

The Conference that Mr. Axworthy is attending brings together the international community in a powerful demonstration of support for the peace process, in particular

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the Wye River Memorandum, which was signed last month between Israel and the Palestinians. The meeting is hosted by the United States government. Foreign ministers of all major donor nations, along with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, have been invited to attend. One of the goals of the Conference is to obtain pledges of enhanced assistance on a multi-year basis to meet the development needs of the West Bank and Gaza.

Canada has taken an active role in the multilateral track of the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) since its inception. Canada chairs the Refugee Working Group, which has sought ways to improve the conditions of Palestinian refugees even during periods when bilateral negotiations were stalled. Canada recently opened a Representative Office in Ramallah to more efficiently deliver its program of assistance.

CIDA will be providing a total of \$92 million over four years for the projects announced today. Funding for these projects was provided for in the February 1998 federal budget, and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

December 1, 1998

(11:30 a.m. EST)

No. 274

MINISTERS AXWORTHY AND MARLEAU MARK FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF LANDMINES CONVENTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau, today announced a Canadian contribution of \$2.8 million for mine-action projects in seven countries in Central Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The announcement marks the first anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention, which opened for signature December 3, 1997.

"Just one year ago when 122 countries signed the Ottawa Convention, it was recognized as an outstanding global achievement, and we have made even more progress in the past 12 months," said Mr. Axworthy. "Tremendous strides have been made in implementing the Convention and in making a real difference in the lives of people in mine-affected countries."

A total of 133 countries have now signed the Convention, and 55 of those have ratified. The Convention will come into legal force in March 1999, barely 15 months after it opened for signature.

"Canada has played an important role in realizing this progress through our expertise and through our contributions to numerous mine-action projects worldwide. Today we are pleased to reaffirm that role through our commitment to these seven new projects," added Mr. Axworthy.

"On this anniversary we are more committed than ever to helping communities that are living with the legacy of landmines," said Madame Marleau. "We have been inspired by the results of demining in countries such as Cambodia, where our support has led to the removal of over 32 000 mines and the return of 10 000 people to fields where they are now able to grow rice. We will also be providing victim assistance, enabling those people hurt by anti-personnel mines to rebuild their lives and become active in their communities," she added.

Minister Axworthy made his remarks in Ottawa at the opening of the Landmine Monitor Meeting, a working conference organized by the International Campaign to

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Ban Landmines (ICBL), which is taking place this week as part of a series of events commemorating the first anniversary of the Convention. Mr. Axworthy was joined at this event by Jody Williams, who along with the ICBL, was last year's winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for her work toward a ban on anti-personnel (AP) mines.

Mr. Axworthy took the occasion to present a report, entitled *One Year Later: Is the Ottawa Convention Making a Difference?*, which chronicles the global progress in the fight against AP mines in the year since the Ottawa Convention opened for signature. The report also provides details of Canada's more than \$47 million in mine action commitments, to date, through the five-year, \$100 million Canadian Landmine Fund, which was announced last December by Prime Minister Chrétien.

The Fund is jointly administered by Mr. Axworthy and Madame Marleau, along with Industry Minister John Manley and Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

CANADA'S NEWEST MINE ACTION INITIATIVES

Croatia

A contribution of \$100 000 to the Mine Action Centre, which will support mine clearance and marking of mine fields, as well as the deployment of mine detection dogs.

Chad

A contribution of \$100 000 to the Mine Action Centre for survey equipment and funding for a technical expert to run and operate the database system with a view to starting a level 1 survey.

Jordan

A contribution of \$300 000 in support of Jordanian demining efforts in the Jordan Valley. Canada, Norway and Israel are working together in support of this effort.

Kosovo

A contribution of \$950 000 to the UN Mine Action Service in support of a preliminary assessment mission in Kosovo, in response to reports from UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) that mines are interfering with return of internally displaced people and with the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The mission will concentrate on gathering information, but is also capable of mine clearance and mine awareness.

Mozambique

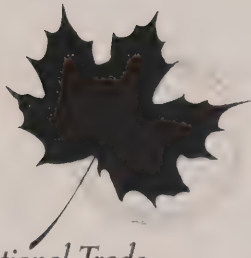
A contribution of \$100 000 to support the UN Development Program's (UNDP) accelerated demining program involving training in survey, personnel and database management. Canada has also joined a Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) initiative for mine clearance, victim assistance and advocacy, working with local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Canada is contributing \$225 000 in matching funds to this \$1.25 million CAW project.

Ukraine

Agreement reached in October for Canada and Ukraine to work together on stockpile destruction.

Yemen

A contribution of \$950 000 to the UN Mine Action Service to support the conduct of a level 1 survey to set national priorities for mine action. Canada is also working with Med-Eng Inc. and Advantists Development Relief Agency (ADRA) Canada to buy \$100 000 of protective gear for Yemen's deminers.



International Trade
Commerce international

News Release

December 1, 1998

(2:30 p.m. EST)

No. 275

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR AND HEAD OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF SWITZERLAND TO VISIT CANADA

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced that the Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs of Switzerland, Pascal Couchepin, will make an official visit to Canada, December 2 to 5. Minister Marchi and his Swiss counterpart will meet on December 3 to sign an agreement on regulatory co-operation and to discuss bilateral trade and economic issues, including the status of free trade negotiations with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which is currently chaired by Switzerland.

"Swiss-Canadian relations stand on the threshold of an even brighter era — an era linking strong commerce to the already strong bonds of friendship," said Mr. Marchi. "The agreement Canada is negotiating with Switzerland and other EFTA nations will form the first free trade bridge across the Atlantic into Europe."

Prior to meeting with Mr. Marchi, Mr. Couchepin will meet with Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray. Mr. Couchepin will also meet with senior government officials, including Bill Graham, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade; James Scott Peterson, Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions); and John Harvard, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Following his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Couchepin will travel to Toronto and Montreal to meet with the business communities in both regions.

- 30 -

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News Release

December 1, 1998

(5:00 p.m. EST)

No. 276

CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT LEADS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION FOR IMPROVED CUSTOMS SERVICES

The Government of Canada today announced that it has introduced legislation into the Senate that defines the authorities for U.S. Customs and Immigration officers in preclearance areas in Canadian airports. The proposed legislation paves the way for the expansion of streamlined intransit preclearance facilities in Canadian airports. These arrangements will be reciprocated by the United States.

"This new legislation provides for faster and easier access to the United States, and ensures travellers' rights under Canadian law," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "The Preclearance Act is a key element in our efforts to build a 21st century border with the U.S."

The Preclearance Act will provide U.S. preclearance officers with appropriate authorities to clear people and goods into the United States, while ensuring that travellers' rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are fully protected.

"Expansion of intransit preclearance services to Canadian airports allows Canadian air carriers and airports to build on the Open Skies agreement," said Transport Minister David Collenette. "This legislation reflects the success of the Agreement and the willingness of our countries to co-operate with a focus on the future of transport."

"This reciprocal legislation will enable Canada and the United States to modernize the management of our shared border," said National Revenue Minister Herb Dhaliwal. "The Preclearance Act will benefit travellers and Canadian businesses that depend on an efficient border."

Canada and the United States also announced agreement on nation-wide expansion of intransit preclearance services. Intransit preclearance services have been provided at the Vancouver International Airport on a pilot basis since June 1997. Under this initiative, all Canadian airports with existing U.S. preclearance facilities will be eligible for intransit preclearance services. Intransit services at Vancouver will be eligible for indefinite extension. Toronto's Pearson International Airport and the Aéroport de



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Montréal (Dorval) will be eligible for intransit preclearance in 1999. Calgary intends follow in 2001. Edmonton, Ottawa and Winnipeg would be eligible after 2001.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

PRECLEARANCE AND INTRANSIT PRECLEARANCE

PRECLEARANCE SERVICES AND HOW THEY WORK

Since 1952, U.S. preclearance in Canadian airports has made transborder air travel much easier and more convenient for U.S.-bound passengers.

Preclearance allows travellers to be inspected by U.S. Customs and Immigration before they depart Canada for U.S. destinations. Precleared passengers enjoy shorter connection times at U.S. airports and direct access to U.S. airports that have no customs or immigration inspection facilities.

U.S. preclearance services are now offered at the Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal (Dorval) airports. Canada does not have preclearance sites in the United States, but the U.S. and Canada will discuss such services. Preclearance has been key to facilitating growth in Canada-U.S. air travel, which has increased 37 percent under the 1995 Canada-United States Air Agreement. About 8.5 million passengers are precleared every year.

What the Act will do

The new law would give U.S. preclearance officers at designated sites in Canada the authority to decide what people and goods are allowed to enter the United States. These officers would administer certain U.S. laws related to customs, immigration, public health, food inspection and plant and animal health, subject to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Bill of Rights. All criminal matters would be dealt with by Canadian authorities under Canadian law. U.S. criminal law would not be enforced in Canada. Strip searches would be performed by Canadian authorities.

The U.S. government is amending its existing legislation to fully reciprocate Canada's proposed legislation and provide for Canadian customs preclearance facilities in U.S. airports.

NEW INTRANSIT PRECLEARANCE SERVICE AND HOW IT WORKS

The Preclearance Act paves the way for expanding and creating new intransit preclearance facilities in Canadian airports. These facilities benefit travellers by offering shorter flight connections and faster routings from Asia and Europe to North America.

Currently, international passengers en route to the United States through a Canadian airport must pass through Canadian customs and immigration before seeing a U.S.

preclearance officer. Intransit preclearance allows third-country passengers to proceed directly to U.S. preclearance facilities without first going through Canadian inspection.

In June 1997, the United States opened an intransit preclearance pilot project in Vancouver, British Columbia. Since that time, over 70 000 passengers have enjoyed more travel choices and shorter transit times.

What today's agreement will mean

The pilot project at the Vancouver airport has been a success and will become permanent. The United States and Canada will also expand this project to other airports in Canada. All Canadian airports with existing U.S. preclearance facilities will be eligible for intransit preclearance services. Intransit services at Vancouver will be eligible for indefinite extension. Toronto's Pearson International Airport and the Aéroport de Montréal (Dorval) will be eligible for intransit preclearance in 1999. Calgary intends to follow in 2001. Edmonton, Ottawa and Winnipeg would be eligible after 2001.

For more information, please refer to our Web site at:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/geo/usa/trans-e.htm>

News Release

December 1, 1998

(6:00 p.m. EST)

No. 277

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES TABLING OF LEGISLATION AGAINST BRIBERY OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Anne McLellan and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the tabling in the Senate, by Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate, Sharon Carstairs, of legislation criminalizing the bribery of foreign public officials.

The Bill would establish a new Act of Parliament, the *Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act*, which would create the new offence of bribery of foreign public officials in the course of business. By taking this step, Canada is fulfilling its commitment to support the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, which was negotiated at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

"Corruption undermines good governance, endangers the stability of democratic institutions and weakens the moral foundations of society," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada has been a constant supporter of international anti-corruption efforts and seeks to be one of the first countries in a position to ratify this convention."

"Around the world, Canada is well known as a leader in promoting accountability and honourable practices in the international arena," said Minister McLellan. "This Bill is consistent with Canada's tradition of upholding respect for justice and the rule of law, and ensures that we have the tools we need to carry out this commitment."

"Canada actively seeks to encourage rules-based trade, which history has shown works in our favour," said Minister Marchi. "Reducing corruption will help level the playing field for Canadian businesses involved in international trade."

Once these legal changes are made, Canada will be prepared to ratify the OECD Convention. The OECD Convention negotiations concluded on November 21, 1997, and Canada signed the Convention on December 17, 1997.



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The 29-member OECD, which includes Canada, the United States, most European countries, Japan and South Korea, is the major economic policy forum for the world's most advanced industrialized democracies. The OECD members develop compatible approaches on a wide range of economic, social and trade issues, including economic growth, employment, fiscal stability and the expansion of world trade.

- 30 -

A backgrounder is attached.

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and on the Department of Justice Canada Internet site: <http://canada.justice.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE *CORRUPTION OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIALS ACT*

The Bill introduced today proposes to create a new federal statute, the *Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act*.

This proposed legislation seeks to implement, in law, obligations Canada has undertaken by signing the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. The Convention was negotiated at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) last year. Canada signed the Convention on December 17, 1997.

New Act of Parliament

The new Act will raise the profile in Canada of the OECD Convention and of the Government of Canada's commitment to combat international corruption and bribery at an international level. It has the flexibility to develop and evolve in the future if Canada wishes to sign and ratify additional international criminal law conventions against corruption.

New Offence of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials

The OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions obliges Member states to make the bribery of foreign public officials a criminal offence. This provision appears in Section 3 of the Bill and is the centrepiece of the proposed Act.

This provision prohibits the bribery of a foreign public official in the course of business. This offence would be punishable on indictment and carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. This offence would, therefore, qualify as an extraditable offence.

The proposed Act describes "facilitation payments" that would be exempted from the ambit of the offence. As well, it would not be an offence if the advantage were lawful in the foreign public official's country or public international organization. Reasonable expenses, incurred in good faith and directly related to the promotion, demonstration or explanation of products and services or to the execution or performance of a contract with the foreign state could also be argued as a defence.

Proceeds of Crime Offences

The Bill also proposes to create two additional criminal offences:

- the offence of possession of property or proceeds obtained or derived from the bribery of foreign public officials or from laundering that property or those proceeds; and
- the offence of laundering the property or proceeds obtained or derived from the bribery of foreign public officials.

The Act incorporates the proceeds of crime provisions of the *Criminal Code* for use in prosecutions of the new offences.

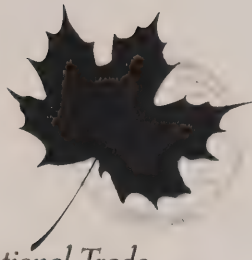
Other Provisions

The Bill also proposes:

- to add the new offence of bribery of foreign public officials to the list of offences found in section 67.5 of the *Income Tax Act* in an effort to deny the tax deductibility of bribes paid to foreign public officials under Section 3 of this proposed Act.
- to extend the list of corruption-related offences defined as "enterprise crime offences" in the *Criminal Code* by adding proposed Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the new Act and by adding the following sections of the *Criminal Code*:
 - Section 123, municipal corruption;
 - Section 124, selling or purchasing office; and
 - Section 125, influencing or negotiating appointments or dealing in offices.

This change would bolster Canada's arsenal of legal tools to combat corruption.

- to extend the list of corruption-related offences included in section 183 of the *Criminal Code* by adding proposed Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the new Act. Through the lawful use of a wiretap and other electronic surveillance, it will be easier for the police to gather evidence in these cases.



News Release

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International Trade
Commerce international

December 2, 1998

(2:00 p.m. EST)

No. 278

MARCHI TO VISIT MIAMI TO ADVANCE FREE TRADE IN THE AMERICAS

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will visit Miami, Florida, on December 9 and 10 to address the 22nd Annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Latin America, and to meet with Florida business leaders to promote trade and investment in Canada.

Minister Marchi will speak to the conference on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). He will then meet with Colombian Trade Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez and attend a luncheon with President Armando Calderón Sol of El Salvador, President Carlos Flores of Honduras and Prime Minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica.

"It is important for our continuing growth that the countries of the Americas press forward with the negotiations toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas," said Mr. Marchi, noting that Canada is chairing the FTAA talks through 1999. "The reduction of trade barriers throughout the hemisphere will bolster all of our economies and strengthen our hemispheric community."

Following the conference, the Minister will meet with influential Florida business leaders in both Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

"Florida's growing economy offers many export opportunities for Canadians and is an important gateway to Latin America," said Mr. Marchi. "At the same time, I want Floridians to know that Canada is a superb place to do business."

Canada's bilateral trade with Florida already exceeds \$5 billion, and an increasing number of Florida entrepreneurs are partnering with Canadian companies.

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A backgrounder on trade between Canada and Florida is attached.

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Backgrounder

TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND FLORIDA

Canada and the state of Florida exchange over C\$13 million worth of products every day of the year. In 1997, Canada sold Florida C\$2.66 billion worth of goods, sustaining an estimated 30 000 jobs in Canada. In turn, Florida sold C\$2.33 billion worth of goods to Canada.

Trade is Growing under Free Trade Agreements

Trade between Florida and Canada continues to grow steadily and significantly. In the years since the Free Trade Agreement took effect, Canadian two-way merchandise trade with Florida has doubled, from about C\$2.5 to C\$5 billion in 1997, with merchandise exports rising slightly faster than imports. Even in the most recent one-year period from 1996 to 1997, two-way trade jumped 16.5 percent.

Notable Areas of Trade

- Canada's leading exports to Florida are forestry products. In 1997, Canada supplied Florida with \$612 million in forest products. Softwood lumber at \$324 million and newsprint at \$197 million alone represented 20 percent of total Canadian merchandise exports.
- Canada sold Florida \$400 million in equipment and tools. This represents 15 percent of Canada's total exports to Florida.
- Transportation equipment comprised an additional 12 percent of Canadian exports to Florida, which were valued at \$313 million.
- Other notable sectors for Canadian exports to Florida include: agricultural products valued at \$277 million; machinery valued at \$177 million; personal and household goods valued at \$143 million; and telecommunications equipment and computers valued at \$141 million.

Tourism

In 1997, 2.1 million Canadians visited Florida for one night or more and spent \$2 billion, while 312 000 residents of Florida spent \$180 million in Canada.

News Release

December 2, 1998

(4:30 p.m. EST)

No. 279

AXWORTHY URGES RELEASE OF DETAINED CHINESE DISSIDENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed deep concern about the reported detention of Chinese political activists over the last few days in Beijing, and elsewhere in China.

"Canada deplores the detention and arrest of political dissidents in China and we have repeatedly made this clear to Chinese leaders," said Minister Axworthy. "China's human rights record continues to be of concern to our government. The human rights dialogue that Canada established with China last year is a high priority in our bilateral relationship, and I again urge the Chinese authorities to release people detained for the peaceful expression of their views."

The Canadian Embassy in Beijing has communicated Minister Axworthy's concerns to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and is seeking details about the detentions and charges that may have been laid.

"We particularly regret these unfortunate developments in view of China's recent signature of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan.

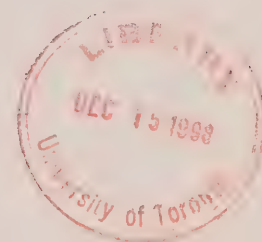
- 30 -

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News Release

December 3, 1998

(9:45 a.m. EST)

No. 280

MARLEAU TO PARTICIPATE IN 12TH FRANCOPHONIE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN ROMANIA

Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau will lead the Canadian delegation participating in the 12th Session of the Francophonie Ministers' Conference in Bucharest on December 4 and 5, 1998.

One of the key items on the Conference's agenda is the reform of the Agence de la Francophonie, which is required due to the establishment of new institutions within La Francophonie — including the General Secretariat directed by Boutros Boutros-Ghali — as a result of the Cotonou and Hanoi summits.

"Canada energetically and expressly supports plans to reform the Agence to make it more effective and transparent," said Madame Marleau. "This is the last conference before the one immediately preceding the Moncton Summit in 1999. It will seek to guide preparations for this meeting of heads of state and heads of government, and promises to be of great importance in following up on major issues within La Francophonie."

"We will also ensure that the issues of good governance and the integration of least-advanced countries in the world trading system are included on the agenda for the Monaco Economic Summit in April 1999," she added.

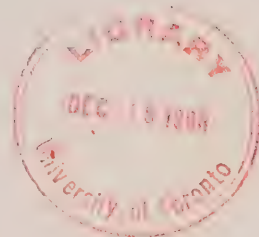
At the end of the Bucharest Conference, Madame Marleau will take over as Chair of the Francophonie Ministers' Conference from His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam.

- 30 -

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News Release

December 3, 1998

(11:45 a.m. EST)

No. 281

KILGOUR TO VISIT MEXICO CITY

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will discuss a wide range of foreign policy issues with Mexican officials and participate in events highlighting the role of people with disabilities during a visit to Mexico City on December 4 and 5.

"The Canada-Mexico relationship is deepening and maturing, and has moved beyond formal political and economic links to include a range of social and cultural issues," said Kilgour.

On December 4, Kilgour will meet with Juan Rebolledo, the Undersecretary for North America and Europe; Luis Ponce de León Armenta of the National Human Rights Commission; and Alan Arias, assistant to Mexico's Federal Co-ordinator for Chiapas.

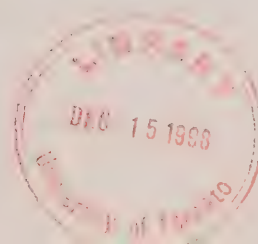
On the same day, Kilgour will also visit a centre for children with disabilities in Mexico City run by the Association for People with Cerebral Palsy. The Canadian Embassy in Mexico has contributed \$18 500 to the project through its Canada Fund to equip the centre's gymnasium for use in rehabilitation. The majority of the 50 children using the centre come from poor families who would otherwise be unable to afford such services.

On December 5, Kilgour will address the Fifth World Assembly of Disabled Peoples International, a grassroots non-government organization based in Winnipeg, which promotes the rights of people with disabilities.

"For our work in alleviating poverty and promoting democracy in the region to be successful, it must both recognize the contributions of the disabled to society and address their special needs," said Kilgour.

As part of his program in Mexico City, Kilgour will also meet with professors of Canadian Studies and Canadian business people.

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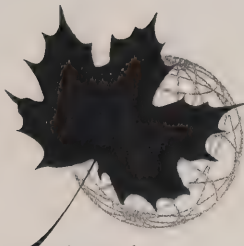
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News Release


International Trade
Commerce internationale

December 3, 1998

(12:30 p.m. EST)

No. 282

CANADA SEEKS CONSULTATIONS ON EUROPEAN UNION PATENT MEASURES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi announced today that Canada has requested World Trade Organization (WTO) consultations on European Union (EU) patent measures on pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products. Consultations are the first step in the WTO dispute settlement process.

The measures at issue relate to the EU supplementary protection certificate (SPC), which extends patent protection beyond the minimum 20 years as required in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Canada argues that the SPC is discriminatory and contrary to the EU's WTO obligations, since it applies only to pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products.

"Canada has no objection to other countries offering greater patent protection than the minimum required by the TRIPS Agreement," said Mr. Marchi. "However, the discriminatory nature of the EU regime contravenes its WTO obligations."

The international trade system allows a balance between the interests of innovator companies in having a healthy and profitable investment climate and the global objective of ensuring that low-cost medicines are available as soon as possible after patent expiry.

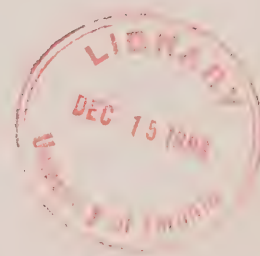
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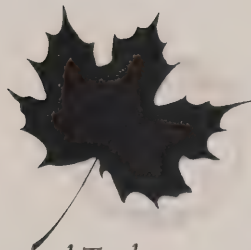
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International Trade
Commerce internationale

News Release

December 3, 1998

(3:00 p.m. EST)

No. 283

CANADA AND SWITZERLAND SIGN AGREEMENT ON REGULATORY CO-OPERATION

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today signed for Canada an agreement for regulatory co-operation with Switzerland. The agreement was signed in Ottawa for Switzerland by the Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs of Switzerland, Pascal Couchepin, who is making his first official visit to Canada.

The reciprocal agreement allows each country's regulatory authorities to ensure that goods meet the other country's regulatory requirements. It pertains to products in the following sectors: telecommunications and information technology equipment, electrical safety, electro-magnetic compatibility, medical devices, as well as manufacturing practices for pharmaceutical goods.

"This agreement holds great promise for Canadian and Swiss manufacturers alike," said Mr. Marchi. "The reduction of costs associated with meeting regulatory requirements will go a long way to encourage and facilitate trade between Canada and Switzerland."

This technical agreement is structured to ensure that the above-mentioned products imported from Switzerland meet all current Canadian safety requirements, and vice versa.

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News Release

December 4, 1998

(6:10 a.m. EST)

No. 284

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE DECLINES JURISDICTION IN FISHERIES JURISDICTION CASE (SPAIN v. CANADA)

The International Court of Justice today decided that it does not have jurisdiction to hear Spain's application against Canada concerning the 1995 seizing of the Spanish fishing vessel *Estai*. The Court accepted the arguments made by Canada on jurisdiction, and the decision means that Spain may not proceed with its case.

The Court held that it could not hear the application because the dispute falls within the terms of Canada's reservation to its general acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction. Every country has the right to make a "reservation" about which matters the Court will not have jurisdiction to hear. In 1994, even before the *Estai* case was brought to the Court by Spain, Canada had registered such a reservation, which excluded from the Court's jurisdiction those disputes concerning or arising out of conservation and management measures taken by Canada with respect to foreign vessels fishing in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area, and the enforcement of those measures.

"We welcome the Court's decision, which affirms the importance of the consent of States to the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in The Hague," said Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Anne McLellan.

"The International Court of Justice is one excellent tool to resolve disputes between States, but we prefer when we can negotiate a good settlement, as we have already done on the Northwest Atlantic fishery with the European Union," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "Even better is to agree on a good set of rules to enforce conservation of straddling Atlantic fish stocks so that disputes don't arise in the first place. This we have done by negotiating a United Nations multilateral agreement of straddling stocks, which Canada hopes to ratify soon."

Legislation for the implementation of the United Nations agreement on straddling stocks is currently being considered by Parliament.

The decision of the Court may be found at the Court's Internet site:
<http://www.icj-cij.org>



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A backgrounder is attached.

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Background

On May 10, 1994, Canada deposited a new reservation to its general acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, excluding from the Court's jurisdiction "disputes arising out of or concerning conservation and management measures taken by Canada with respect to vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area...and the enforcement of such measures."

On the same day, amendments to the *Coastal Fisheries Protection Act* were introduced in Parliament authorizing the enforcement of Canadian conservation and management measures in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area. The NAFO Regulatory Area is that portion of the Northwest Atlantic falling outside Canada's 200-mile zone that is regulated by the NAFO. The amendments were adopted by Parliament and given Royal Assent on May 12, 1994.

On March 3, 1995, Spain and Portugal were added to the list of countries whose vessels were subject to the *Coastal Fisheries Protection Act*. On March 9, 1995, the Spanish fishing vessel *Estai* was seized and its master arrested by Canadian officials in the NAFO Regulatory Area for violations of the *Coastal Fisheries Protection Act*.

Spain then filed an application against Canada at the International Court of Justice, claiming that the Court had jurisdiction under Canada's general acceptance of the Court's compulsory jurisdiction. Canada immediately objected to the application on the basis that the Court was without jurisdiction because of the terms of the reservation to Canada's acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction.

Spain and Portugal were removed from the list of countries subject to the *Coastal Fisheries Protection Act* in May of 1995, pursuant to an agreement with the European Union. The charges against the master of the *Estai* were also stayed.

With the parties' agreement, the Court ordered that the first phase of the *Fisheries Jurisdiction Case (Spain v. Canada)* be devoted to the question of the Court's jurisdiction. Spain filed its memorial in September of 1995, and Canada its counter-memorial in February of 1996. The Court denied Spain's request for a second round of written pleadings, and the oral pleadings took place in June of 1998.

Throughout the written and oral pleadings, Canada maintained its position that the Court was without jurisdiction because of the plain wording of the reservation to Canada's acceptance of the Court's compulsory jurisdiction. Meanwhile, Spain argued that its application was outside the scope of Canada's reservation, principally on the grounds that the dispute was not about conservation and management measures and their enforcement, but rather on Canada's jurisdiction to enforce its laws on the high seas and about the illegal use of force on the high seas.



International Trade
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News Release

December 4, 1998

(1:30 p.m. EST)

No. 285

MARCHI WELCOMES HONGKONG BANK OF CANADA'S INVESTMENT IN NORTHSTAR TRADE FINANCE

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International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the announcement by Hongkong Bank of Canada of a substantial equity investment in Northstar Trade Finance Inc., a partnership between the public and private sector that supports the export financing needs of Canadian small and medium-sized businesses.

"I am delighted that Hongkong Bank of Canada is adding its capital and international business expertise to help meet the export financing needs of the Canadian small business community as an investor in Northstar," said Mr. Marchi at a ceremony held in Toronto to announce the new investment. "Broadening the base of Canadian exporters is a personal priority. I want more companies exporting more goods and services to more countries."

Northstar Trade Finance Inc. was formed in 1994 as a partnership of public and private sector organizations, including the federal government, to provide medium-term finance to foreign buyers in support of export transactions in the \$100 000 to \$5 million range — a market niche that, although not being served by conventional sources of trade finance, is critical to the success of smaller Canadian companies in world markets.

"As a public-private sector partnership, Northstar is an excellent example of the Team Canada approach in action," said the Minister. "The addition of Hongkong Bank of Canada to the team will enhance access to competitive export financing for Canada's small and medium-sized companies."

Catherine Swift, President of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business said, "Small and medium-sized businesses are increasingly looking to expand their activities in foreign markets, but accessing export financing remains a challenge. The activities of Northstar Trade Finance are a welcome addition to the marketplace."

In addition to Hongkong Bank of Canada, other Northstar shareholders are the Bank of Montreal, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Government of British Columbia. The Government of Ontario provided initial capital, and the Government of Canada



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provides support through the Western Economic Diversification Program, the Business Development Bank of Canada, and the Export Development Corporation (EDC). As a Crown corporation reporting to Parliament through the Minister for International Trade, EDC has provided insurance on all Northstar loans.

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News Release

December 4, 1998

(2:30 p.m. EST)

No. 286

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND NATO MEETINGS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that he will attend the autumn Foreign Ministers meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, December 8 to 9. The meeting will include sessions of various NATO bodies including the North Atlantic Council, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council and the NATO-Ukraine Commission. Minister Axworthy will also hold bilateral meetings with several of his counterparts over the course of the two days.

The North Atlantic Council meeting will focus on preparations for the April 1999 Washington Summit including the enlargement of the Alliance to include Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, and the revision of the 1991 Strategic Concept, which provides guidance to the Alliance. NATO's ongoing involvement in Bosnia and in international efforts to resolve the conflict in Kosovo will also be discussed.

"Canada believes that the revision of the Strategic Concept is essential given the radical changes that have taken place in the international security environment over the past seven years," said Mr. Axworthy. "NATO continues to play a crucial role in conflict prevention and crisis management in the Euro-Atlantic area, as the Alliance's response to the conflict in Kosovo has demonstrated."

In Brussels, Minister Axworthy will address the vital question of the security of the 2000 verifiers participating in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Kosovo Verification Mission.

NATO plays a role in the air verification mission over Kosovo and in the Extraction Force, which is being assembled to evacuate the OSCE verifiers in the event of an emergency.

It is anticipated that the revised Strategic Concept will be endorsed by heads of state and government when they meet in Washington in April 1999. The Washington Summit will be the starting point for celebration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty.

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News Release

December 7, 1998

(10:40 a.m. EST)

No. 287

KATHLEEN MAHONEY TO CHAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Kathleen E. Mahoney as Chair of the Board of Directors of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD).

Ms. Mahoney is a Professor of Law at the University of Calgary and a member of numerous boards and professional and learned societies. She has received various awards and distinctions for her scholarly contributions on the subjects of human rights, pornography and hate literature. Ms. Mahoney has been dedicated to raising awareness both in Canada and globally to biases in law. She is currently part of the Canada-China Human Rights Research Project of the University of Ottawa's Human Rights Centre and a consultant to the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Western Australia, on race and gender education programs for judges.

The ICHRDD is an independent body established by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It provides persons and organizations in other countries with training, advice and research services to promote the observance of human rights and the full participation of all citizens in the democratic process. The Centre's Board of Directors is made up of 13 members, including three from countries other than Canada.

- 30 -

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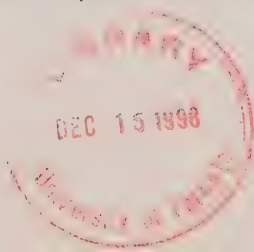
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December 7, 1998

(10:50 a.m. EST)

No. 288

CANADA WELCOMES RENEWAL OF UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION IN HAITI

The Government of Canada welcomed today the United Nations Security Council's decision to renew the UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) for one additional year.

The Mission will continue to assist the Government of Haiti by supporting and contributing to the professionalization of the Haitian National Police. Canada will again provide 24 police officers and six Canadian Forces armoured personnel carriers (Bisons). As part of Canada's broader bilateral development assistance program, 22 Canadian police experts are offering technical assistance to the Haitian National Police.

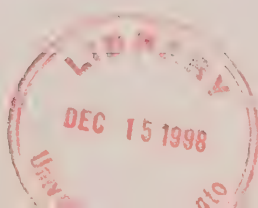
The Mission was renewed after the President of Haiti requested that the United Nations support further development of the Haitian National Police. The Mission's new mandate will expire on November 30, 1999.

"The Haitian National Police made great progress in the past year with the support of MIPONUH," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "However, much remains to be done. The renewal of the MIPONUH mandate is a reflection of the continued commitment of the international community to further democracy, justice and the respect for human rights in Haiti."

"Our support to the UN Mission is part of our overall development strategy in Haiti, which is aimed at reducing poverty," said Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau. "Consolidating the rule of law is a first priority if we want to create a solid base for social and economic development."

"The work of Canadian police officers, led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, has been exceptional," said Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay. "This additional year will permit them to continue providing their valuable contribution to the professionalization of the Haitian National Police."

"I'm pleased that the Department of National Defence is continuing to contribute to the mission in Haiti by providing armoured personnel carriers and 12 Canadian Forces support personnel," said National Defence Minister Art Eggleton.

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The Mission will again comprise up to 300 civilian police officers, some of whom will form a security unit to provide assistance to Mission personnel and to protect its property. The Mission will be financed in part by the United Nations and in part by voluntary contributions from various countries, including Canada (through the Canadian International Development Agency).

- 30 -

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International Trade
Commerce international

News Release

December 9, 1998

(10:20 a.m. EST)

No. 289

CANADA APPOINTS CHAIR OF THE AMERICAS BUSINESS FORUM

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today announced the Government of Canada's appointment of C. Kent Jespersen as Chair of the Americas Business Forum.

"Mr. Jespersen is a prominent figure in both the North and South American business communities," said Mr. Marchi. "His years of experience will be a great contribution to the Americas Business Forum and its work toward achieving a Free Trade Area of the Americas."

The purpose of the Americas Business Forum is to co-ordinate input from private sector representatives from all countries involved in the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. This input is then fed into the FTAA negotiation process. As chair of the first phase of the FTAA negotiations, Canada is charged with leading the negotiating process until October, 1999.

"Canada is pleased to be chair of the FTAA negotiations. We consider this part of our commitment to achieving more transparent and more open trade regimes in the hemisphere as well as part of our ongoing commitment to Canadian exporters and investors," added the Minister.

During the Summit of the Americas in Miami in December, 1994, leaders stated that the common goal was to reach a single, comprehensive free trade agreement among 34 countries of the hemisphere by the year 2005. The next FTAA ministerial meeting will take place in Toronto on November 1 and 2, 1999, following a meeting of the Americas Business Forum on October 30 and 31, 1999.

Mr. Jespersen is currently Chairman of La Jolla Resources International Ltd. of Calgary, Alberta. He gained extensive business experience in the Americas during the twenty-two years he worked as a senior executive of Nova Corporation. His practical experience, particularly leading Nova's major investments in natural gas



pipelines in Latin America, provides him with a broad knowledge of issues affecting the private sector and relevant to the FTAA.

Mr. Jespersen is also the first Canadian to chair the Board of the Institute of the Americas located in La Jolla, California. The Institute is an organization devoted to promoting better relations between North America and Latin America. Mr. Jespersen is also chairman of the C.D. Howe Institute.

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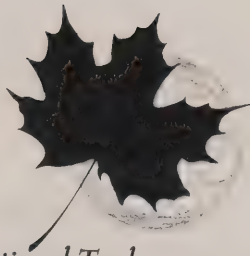
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International Trade
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News Release

December 9, 1998

(3:45 p.m. EST)

No. 290

CANADIAN COMPANIES WIN REPRIEVE FROM MICHIGAN STATE TAX

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the State of Michigan's decision not to pursue for the time being any tax discovery programs aimed at foreign-based businesses potentially liable under the Single Business Tax.

The decision means that Michigan will take no new actions requiring Canadian companies to disclose potential tax liabilities until a mutual understanding of the situation is reached.

"There is no doubt that the extended tax measures would create a burden on Canadian companies and could harm Michigan companies as well," said Minister Marchi. "With Canada-Michigan trade reaching C\$82 billion in 1997, it is clear that we must work hand in hand to keep our trade and investment relationship healthy and prosperous."

The assurance will allow Canada to pursue discussions with Michigan on the extension of its tax jurisdiction and the retroactive application of its state business tax, an issue that has raised much concern among Canadian businesses.

Michigan's Single Business Tax was originally enacted in 1976 as a tax on the basic revenue of Michigan companies. In February 1998, as a result of court decisions, the State of Michigan broadened its tax jurisdiction in a way that made more foreign companies liable and made taxes payable retroactively.

"The understanding between Canada and the State of Michigan provides timely assurance to Canadian companies that have been caught off guard by these significant tax changes," said Mr. Marchi.

Since the fall, the Canadian government has made a number of representations to the Michigan government. These efforts have taken the form of representations by Minister Marchi and his officials with the Governor, the State Treasury Department and the state's business community.



Before this reprieve, Canadian companies could have faced from four years of back taxes and interest to a full 10 years in back taxes and interest, plus a 50 percent penalty.

The Government of Canada realizes that this issue is not fully resolved. It will continue to defend Canadian companies' interests in Michigan. The Canadian and Michigan governments are co-operating to keep Canadian industry informed of further developments.

- 30 -

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News Release

December 10, 1998

(3:00 p.m. EST)

No. 291

AXWORTHY WELCOMES PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT ON NUCLEAR POLICY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the release of the report, *Canada and the Nuclear Challenge*, presented by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The report lists 15 recommendations for the conduct of Canada's nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation policy.

"I welcome the Committee's study of important issues which have stirred legitimate and widespread debate among Canadians," said Mr. Axworthy. "The Committee undertook this project taking into account Canada's long-standing commitment to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as a core dimension of our broader pursuit of international peace and security. The members heard testimony from a wide range of strategic analysts, experts and non-governmental organizations, and I look forward to reviewing the Committee's recommendations."

Canada played a key role in securing the indefinite extension in 1995 of the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), now signed by 187 states, as well as the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which Minister Axworthy signed in September 1996.

On May 26, 1998, Minister Axworthy spoke before the Committee on the implications for the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. He emphasized that Canada's credentials as a credible participant and promoter of new channels for diplomacy and change should guide further progress on the nuclear disarmament front. Minister Axworthy added that Canada should also take steps to ensure against the threat posed by nuclear proliferation.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will have 150 days to co-ordinate a response to the recommendations in the report, in close consultation with other government departments and agencies.

- 30 -



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News Release

December 10, 1998

(8:45 p.m. EST)

No. 292

AXWORTHY WELCOMES POSTPONEMENT OF FAULDER EXECUTION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed a decision by the United States Supreme Court to postpone the execution of a Canadian citizen, Stanley Faulder, who had been scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas at 6:00 p.m., Texas time, today.

The Court made its decision in respect to a petition filed by Mr. Faulder on November 25. That petition was supported by an amicus brief addressing the Vienna Convention issues submitted by the Government of Canada.

"I believe the court has acted appropriately," said Mr. Axworthy. "The stay of execution will provide time for the special issues associated with Mr. Faulder's conviction and sentence to be addressed."

Mr. Axworthy noted that the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations defines an international standard for all governments that provides protection and assistance for all people when they are in difficulty in another country.

"The fact that this international standard was not respected by the authorities at the time of Mr. Faulder's arrest and trial seriously undermines the safeguards we want for citizens of all countries, including Americans," added Minister Axworthy. "Texas authorities clearly should have given this matter much more serious and careful attention."

Mr. Axworthy commended the members of Mr. Faulder's family for their courage and determination under exceptionally trying circumstances and expressed his appreciation for the support in Canada, the United States and around the world that has been given to Mr. Faulder's cause. He noted, in particular, the support given by the American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the countries of the European Union.

"The quality of that support demonstrates the international community is prepared to



address the troublesome issues raised by Mr. Faulder's situation," concluded Mr. Axworthy. "They affect all of us, and Canada will be at the forefront in pushing for appropriate action."

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News Release

December 15, 1998

(4:15 p.m. EST)

No. 293

AXWORTHY TRAVELS TO NEW YORK TO ADVANCE CANADA'S SECURITY AGENDA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy will be in New York on December 18 to undertake a number of activities aimed at advancing Canada's international security agenda.

Key among these will be the Minister's meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to discuss a range of global and human security issues. He will also meet with UNSCOM Executive Chairman Richard Butler to discuss the current situation in Iraq. Minister Axworthy will as well make Canada a State Party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by depositing Canada's instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General, and will sign, on behalf of Canada, the Statute for the International Criminal Court (ICC). He will also meet with the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of various countries to discuss the emphasis that Canada will place on human security issues during its upcoming term on the UN Security Council.

Canada was among the first countries to sign the CTBT when it opened for signature in September 1996. The deposit of Canada's instrument of ratification was made possible by Parliament's passage of implementing legislation this fall, and will place Canada among the first countries to ratify. The Treaty, signed by 151 States, recognizes that halting all nuclear weapons test explosions, and all other nuclear explosions, constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Canada is playing a key role in organizing a Conference of States for the autumn of 1999 to explore ways of facilitating the Treaty's early entry into force.

"The CTBT is an important part of Canada's efforts over the past years to construct an effective international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime," said Mr. Axworthy. "By ratifying, Canada will help to enhance the strength of this regime. I urge all States that have not signed the Treaty to do so immediately and without conditions."

Canada also played a leadership role in the development of the ICC. Throughout the preparatory negotiations, Canada chaired a group of over 60 "like-minded" states with



a shared commitment to a strong Court. In addition, Canadian Philippe Kirsch chaired the difficult negotiations of the Diplomatic Conference in Rome at which the Statute was adopted last July.

The ICC will have jurisdiction over genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. In the negotiations, Canada succeeded in ensuring in the Statute that violence against women and the military recruitment of children under the age of 15 are recognized as war crimes. The Court will have an independent prosecutor able to initiate proceedings.

"The time has come to build new institutions which will provide greater security to ordinary citizens," said Mr. Axworthy. "By helping to uphold the rule of law, this Court will serve in the long run to promote international stability."

The Department of Justice is examining Canadian legislation and facilitating any necessary amendments to ensure that Canada is in compliance with its obligations under the ICC Statute, so that Canada may ratify the Statute as soon as possible. The ICC Statute will enter into force once 60 States have ratified it.

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International Trade
Commerce international

News Release

December 16, 1998

(12:45 p.m. EST)

No. 294

MARCHI TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will lead a trade mission to the Middle East from February 22 to 28. The visit will include stops in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank and Israel, and will highlight a range of sectors, including information technology, telecommunications, education, agri-food, engineering and construction.

"These four markets together accounted for more than \$1 billion of Canadian exports in 1997," said Mr. Marchi. "I welcome this opportunity to support Canadian companies active in the region and help them gain a competitive edge."

In Riyadh, Minister Marchi will participate in the ninth session of the Canada-Saudi Joint Economic Commission and meet with a number of Saudi government officials. In the United Arab Emirates, he will open the new Canadian Embassy building in Abu Dhabi. On his first visit to the West Bank, Minister Marchi will officially open the Canadian Representative Office in Ramallah.

Mr. Marchi will also review the two-year-old Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA) and explore ways to further improve trade with Israel. Under the CIFTA, two-way trade has increased more than 34 percent, with exports to Israel surpassing \$243 million in 1997.

In 1997, Canadian exports to Saudi Arabia reached over \$545 million, and over \$257 million to the United Arab Emirates, a four-fold increase since 1992.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

TRADE FACTS — MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East region offers growing opportunities for Canadian companies.

Canada's 1997 merchandise exports to the Middle East were more than \$1.3 billion, while imports from the region totalled approximately \$1 billion. The region has a great demand for Canadian high-technology products.

In 1997, Canadian exports to Saudi Arabia reached \$545.6 million, with two-way trade nearing \$1.2 billion. Exports to the United Arab Emirates totalled \$257.6 million in 1997, a four-fold increase since 1992. Two-way trade with Israel is roughly balanced, with Canadian exports reaching \$243.4 million in 1997 and imports totalling \$311.7 million that same year. Canada is a significant importer of Middle East oil and commodities, as well as manufactured goods mainly from Israel.

Priority sectors in the Middle East offering the greatest opportunities for Canadian exporters include: telecommunications, environmental technologies, agri-food, engineering and construction, oil and gas, and power generation and transmission. Opportunities also exist in the education and training sector.

Service exports form a significant portion of Canadian exports to the Middle East; as a rule of thumb, they represent approximately 70 percent of the value of total merchandise exports. Consulting and engineering services in the oil and gas, power generation, and telecommunications sectors traditionally make up most of these exports. Canada also exports manufactured goods and advanced-technology goods and services.

New exports of services are taking place in diverse sectors such as environmental technologies, dairy genetics and livestock management, architecture, education and training, geomatics, telecommunications, government services and procurement, transportation, and finance.

Israel and the West Bank/Gaza Strip are increasingly targeted by Canadian companies familiar with the region and aware of the significant opportunities existing there for Canadian construction, energy, and telecommunications products and services. The Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, signed in January 1997, also serves as a catalyst to boost our exports into the region.

Investment opportunities for Canadian companies exist as well in the region's tourism, infrastructure, oil and gas, and mining sectors.



News Release

International Trade
Commerce internationale

December 17, 1998

(12:15 p.m. EST)

No. 295

WTO RELEASES REPORT ON CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi today welcomed the findings of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Policy Review of Canada, which reported positively on Canada's trade and economic performance and its commitment to a strong multilateral trading system. The results of the review were announced today in Geneva.

"Today's report is more proof that Canada's economy is strong and its industries are adapting to the opportunities in the global marketplace," said Minister Marchi. "I am pleased to see that the report acknowledges the extent to which Canada's trade and investment policies are open and transparent, and recognizes the value we place on a rules-based trading system."

The Trade Policy Review found that Canada's pursuit of an export-oriented strategy combined with "prudent macro-economic policies" has been an important part of Canada's recent strong economic performance.

In addition, the report recognized Canada's work to eliminate export subsidies and reduce domestic agricultural subsidies. It acknowledged Canada's work to further liberalize trade in textiles and clothing, in some instances beyond WTO commitments, and noted Canada's efforts to improve its import rules by simplifying and rationalizing customs tariffs.

"Canada's commitment to global free trade and a rules-based global trading system is clear and proven," said Mr. Marchi. "Our country's success is built on trade. We need a fair and effective system of trade rules between nations so that Canadians can compete on equal terms in foreign markets."

Today's review is the fifth since the Trade Policy Review mechanism was established under the GATT in 1989, and it is the first interim review since the WTO was established in 1995. This interim review focuses on Canada's trade policy from November 1996 to the present. The final report will be published by the WTO in February 1999.

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News Release

December 23, 1998

(1:00 p.m. EST)

No. 296

AXWORTHY TO VISIT THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA TO HIGHLIGHT HUMAN SECURITY ISSUES

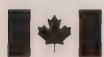
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will make official visits to Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Nicaragua from January 7 to 12 to strengthen bilateral relations and further hemispheric co-operation on such issues as drugs, anti-personnel mines and human rights.

"Canada takes its hemispheric responsibilities very seriously and is working closely with Caribbean and Latin American partners to address a wide range of human security challenges," said Mr. Axworthy. "I will work with representatives from the region to create a strong framework for dialogue, co-operation and action as Canada prepares to host the next Summit of the Americas."

On January 7, Mr. Axworthy travels to Havana, where he will meet with Cuban Vice-President Carlos Lage and Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina to review the current state of Canada-Cuba relations. This meeting takes place two years after Minister Axworthy's first visit to Cuba, when he and Foreign Minister Robaina signed the Canada-Cuba Joint Declaration. In addition to providing a framework for discussions on human rights, the Declaration has helped strengthen relations between the two countries, notably in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and technical co-operation between governments and among universities and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Minister Axworthy travels to Jamaica on January 8, where he and Prime Minister P. J. Patterson will discuss bilateral relations and the hemispheric Foreign Ministers Dialogue Group on Drugs. Endorsed by leaders at the Santiago Summit last April, the Dialogue Group is a Canadian initiative to promote discussion on drugs and human security issues. Mr. Axworthy will also tour inner-city projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and will inspect newly delivered Canadian Bell-Textron helicopters purchased by Jamaica.

On January 10, Mr. Axworthy arrives in Mexico, where he will participate in the opening ceremony of a regional conference on anti-personnel mines. The Conference, which is designed to advance the mine action agenda in the Western Hemisphere, will focus on early ratification of the Ottawa Convention, humanitarian mine clearance efforts and assistance to victims.



"Mexico has been a partner of Canada throughout the Ottawa Process and we are delighted to be working with them on this next important phase of the effort to eliminate anti-personnel mines," said Mr. Axworthy.

While in Mexico, Minister Axworthy is scheduled to deliver a speech at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México discussing human security challenges for the next millennium. Mr. Axworthy and Mexican Foreign Minister Rosario Green will also hold bilateral discussions and co-chair a roundtable on North American co-operation and other topics with leading Mexican academics and opinion makers.

In Nicaragua, on January 11, Minister Axworthy will meet with President Arnoldo Alemán and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Eduardo Montealegre, and will survey the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch. He will also meet with Canadian NGO disaster relief representatives. Canada has committed \$9.5 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, as well as an additional \$100 million to the long-term building of Central America. Canada has as well announced \$3.7 million for mine action programs in Central America, where Hurricane Mitch has displaced thousands of landmines and complicated the process of reconstruction.

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News Release

December 23, 1998

(3:50 p.m. EST)

No. 297

CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES JOIN IN PROTEST AGAINST HARSH SENTENCING OF CHINESE DISSIDENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada had joined Austria, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union in making a joint diplomatic démarche to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, to protest the harsh sentences delivered recently by China to three Chinese dissidents.

"Canada is deeply concerned over the heavy sentences imposed on political dissidents in China," said Mr. Axworthy. "The long prison terms handed out this week to Chinese political activists are not consistent with the October 5, 1998, signature by China of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a development that was welcomed by Canada."

Canada's Ambassador to China participated in the joint political démarche to urge China to release Xu Wenli, Qin Yongmin and Wang Youcai, who were respectively sentenced to 13, 12 and 11 years in prison for their political activities.

"We value the bilateral dialogue that we have established with China on human rights issues," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. "We therefore expect the Chinese authorities to show greater tolerance for the peaceful expression of political views by their citizens."

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News Release

December 30, 1998

(5:40 p.m. EST)

No. 298

AXWORTHY WELCOMES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) of two recent resolutions on Cyprus, and the decision by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, not to deploy Russian-purchased S-300 missiles in Cyprus.

"President Clerides' decision will contribute to a lessening of tensions in the eastern Mediterranean," said Mr. Axworthy. "On December 18, I wrote my counterparts in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey to emphasize that Canada supports the efforts of both UN personnel and community leaders in Cyprus in finding a solution to the current situation."

UNSC Resolution 1207 extends the mandate of UNFICYP (United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus) for another six-month period, until June 30, 1999. UNSC Resolution 1208 refers to efforts by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and UN Secretary-General Deputy Special Representative for Cyprus Dame Ann Hercus to promote measures to reduce tensions and develop core aspects of a comprehensive Cyprus settlement.

Minister Axworthy welcomed the inclusion of a demining proposal in the resolution, which he had initiated during his visit to Cyprus in June 1998. "Canada supports the adoption of a demining program in Cyprus and would be prepared to assist in its implementation," said Mr. Axworthy.

Canada provided peacekeeping troops to Cyprus for 29 years, until June 1993; there are three Canadian military officers currently serving with UNFICYP. Canada will continue to follow closely developments in Cyprus while serving on the UN Security Council.

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